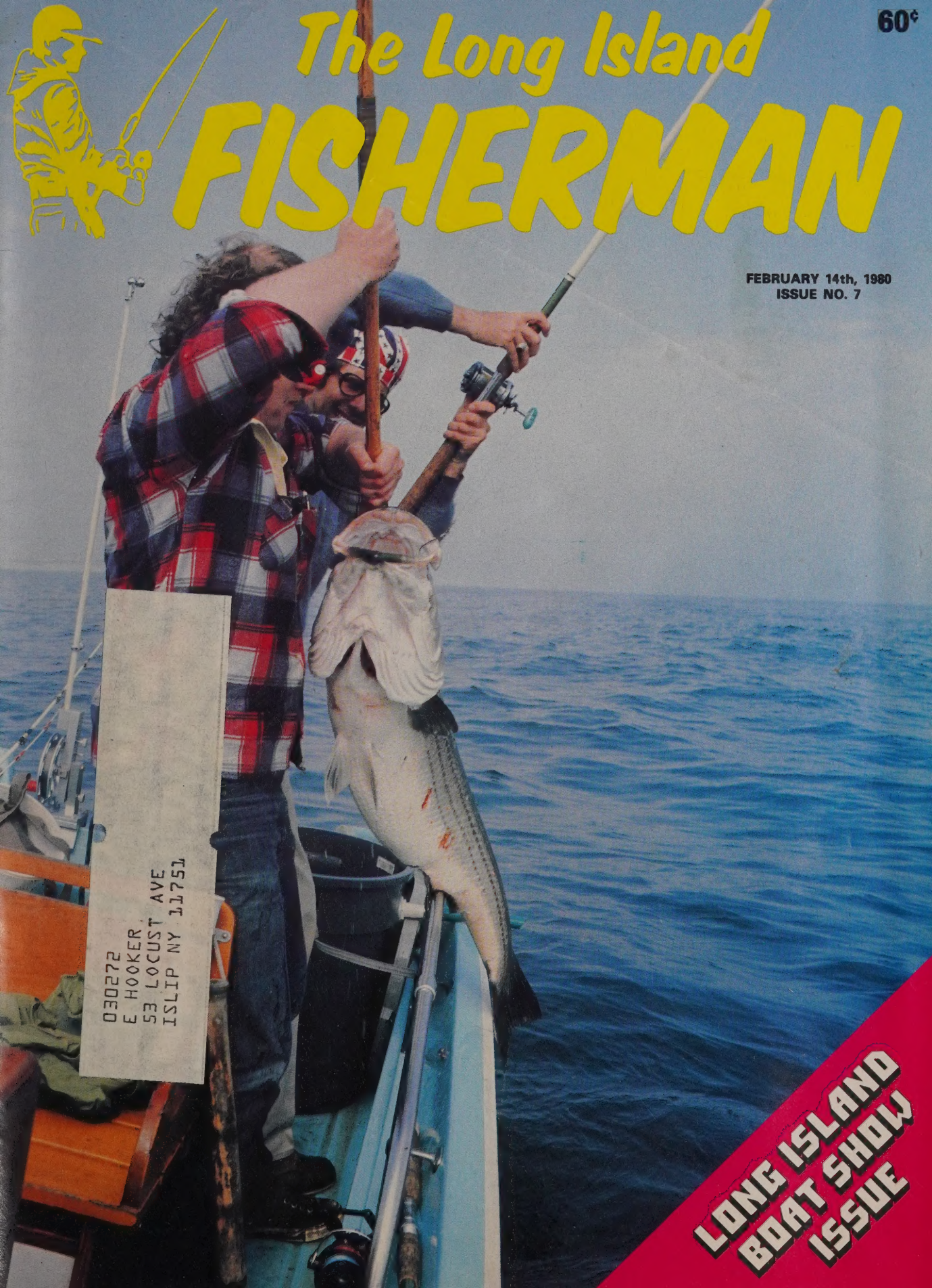
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FISHERMAN
FEBRUARY 14th, 1980
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BOAT SHOW
ISSUE

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The Long Island FISHERMAN

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Volume 15, Number 7 — February 14th, 1980

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ABOUT THE COVER: **A big cow bass with flaring gills is gaffed and brought into the boat. The 1980 Long Island Boat Show begins this Saturday in the Nassau Coliseum, and *The Long Island Fisherman* will have our usual booth there.** ***Photo by Dick Mermon***

Richard Reina — PUBLISHER
Al Ristori — ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Pete Barrett — NEW JERSEY EDITION
Scott J. Simons — EDITOR
Fred Golofaro — ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Tim Coleman — NEW ENGLAND EDITION
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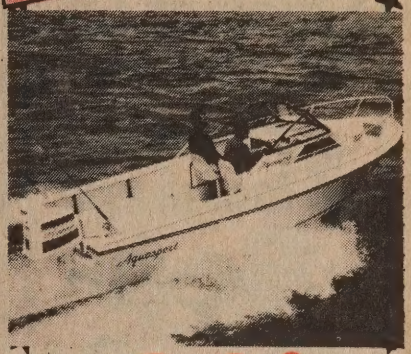

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The Fighting Chair

with Scott Simons

Public Hearings in Babylon on Dragging in Great South Bay, Fish Traps & Gill Nets

Long Island sportfishermen will finally get their chance to let our state legislators in Albany know how we feel about commercial draggers fishing in our South Shore bays, the controversial fish trap that suddenly appeared in Montauk State Park last year and the unregulated use of gill nets by commercial fishermen. A public hearing on legislation which will alleviate these problems of concern to recreational fishermen will be held on Saturday, February 23 at 10AM in the Babylon Town Hall, 200 East Sunrise Highway, Lindenhurst, New York.

This public hearing is the first of many to be held on Long Island by the New York Senate Subcommittee on the Long Island Marine District, chaired by Senator Owen Johnson of Babylon, which will handle all proposed legislation on anything that has to do with fishing or marine finfish on Long Island. This Committee has just been formed, largely because of the amount of interest that was shown last year by sportfishermen complaining about the unrestricted and rapidly expanding commercial fishing industry on Long Island. The thousands of letters written by sportfishermen to our legislators in Albany concerning the destruction of Romer Shoals, dragging in Great South Bay and Moriches, the fish trap at Montauk, gill netting of weakfish while they are spawning, various striped bass bills, and the public hearing held last year on bluefish that drew more than two thousand sportfishermen, all served to bring attention to the fact that there are more than two million saltwater fishermen in New York and our elected officials had better start paying more attention to our needs. The formation of this new committee by the New York State Senate is the first concrete sign that the message has been heard in Albany.

Now that we have the Senate's attention, it's very important that we keep it. This can only be accomplished by having a massive turnout for this public hearing. Fortunately, the hearing is being held on a Saturday morning in the middle of February when winter's "cabin fever" is at its peak, so we expect that there will be a very large turnout. We urge **all** sportfishermen to attend this hearing as individuals, and expect that fishing clubs will be sending representatives as well. Surf fishermen in particular should attend the hearing in large numbers due to the proposed bill that will ban fish traps in the stretch of beach between the jetties of Lake Montauk and the Lighthouse. There will also be discussion on a proposed law that will establish a minimum size of eight inches for winter flounder which could be a disaster for fishermen fishing in certain areas of Long Island, like the North Shore. So everyone has a big stake in what will happen at this public hearing, and we hope that sportfishermen will make this meeting even more successful than the bluefish hearings by showing up in force.

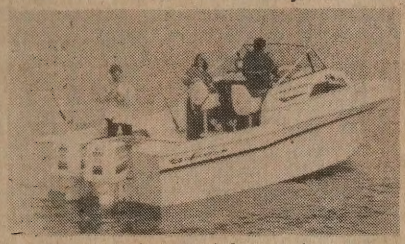
So make plans **now** to attend! Next week we will discuss the particulars of the bills that will be the subject of this important hearing.

Scott J. Simons

New Products

NEW GRADY-WHITE WALK-AROUND OUTBOARD

Grady-White Boats Inc., of Greenville, N.C., recently announced the introduction of its news, 255 Sailfish. The 255 Sailfish is a 25', V-hull outboard with a wide 9' 6" beam. The new boat is Grady-White's



largest and is rated for outboards to 365 horsepower; and will accept either single or twin outboard power.

In speed trials with twin 175 h.p. outboard engines, the beamy, twenty-five footer climbed to a plane in 3.5 seconds. Cruising speed for this power was 33 mph at 3500 rpm—giving the Sailfish a range of over 365 miles. Top speed for the Sailfish was just under 50 mph.

The boat has a recessed walkway around the cabin along with a Fiberglas-lined, self-bailing cockpit, enclosed head, and three cabin berths. Additional standard features include hydraulic steering, a salt-water wash down system, 195 gallon gas capacity, and a 185 quart fish box along with a 60 quart ice box and a 60 quart live well.

For complete specifications on the 255 Sailfish and all other 1980 Grady-White Boats, write: Grady-White Boats, Inc., P. O. Box 1527, Greenville, N.C. 27834.

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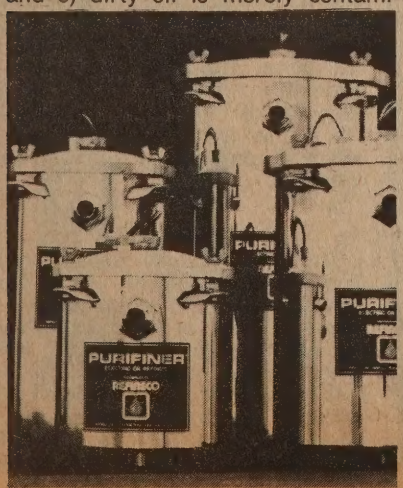

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Complete information, literature, Purifiners and installations are all available from Roy Flood, President of CHARON MARINE IND., INC., 117 Hudson Ave., Freeport, N.Y. 11520 or call (516) 378-7331.

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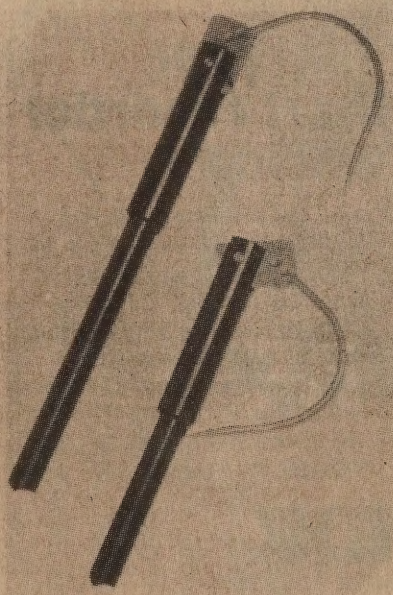
Safe-T-Gaff—a new gaff on the market, features a lifetime guarantee



and a fold-down safety hook feature fitted with a 75 lb. compression spring under load.

The Safe-T-Gaff is engineered to combine durability with safety. In the open position, the Safe-T-Gaff will help you land just about any fish. In the closed position, the Safe-T-Gaff hook is sheathed in a recessed well in the handle, providing safety for you, your companions, and your boat. No more accidentally hooking yourself, your children, or your boat cushions.

Available in three models: Billy Gaff, $18; 3' Gaff, $20, and 4' Gaff, $22. This includes shipping and tax.

Not sold in stores. Call or write: Safe-T-Gaff Co., P.O. Box 312, West Hempstead, New York 11552; 516-481-0360. Call for fishing club demos.

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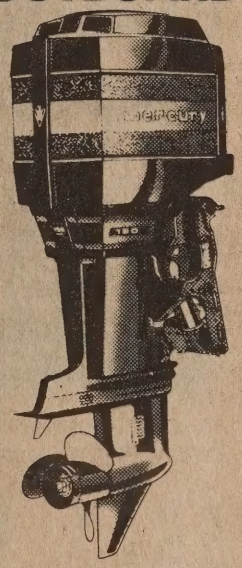

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Contests & Tournaments

CHARITY SHARK TOURNEY IN MONTAUK

A charity shark tournament is now being prepared by the Montauk Captains Association. This event will be held on July 12 and 13 at the Star Island Yacht Club, Montauk. The entrance fee will be $150; one-half of this going directly to the Ameican Cancer Society and the American Heart Association. Both of these worthy charities have sanctioned this event and is tax deductible. The second half of the entrance fee will be used as cash prizes for the contestants. Along with the cash awards, many donations of marine equipment and tackle have been offered and will be awarded in several categories.

To ensure this will not become a shark kill, no shark under 100 lbs. may be entered and only one shark may be weighed in each day. We recommend releasing all other sharks. Jack Casey, marine biologist from the National Oceanic and Atmosheric Administration will be in attendance and will provide tagging kits for those requesting them. The M.C.A. will award a trophy to the boat with the most releases for the event.

The contest will be judged by three well known outdoor writers; spectators will be welcomed. For information and details, phone: Robert Bozek, (516) RO 4-0284.

CLUB NEWS

BABYLON TUNA CLUB

The Babylon Tuna Club announces a six night Fishing Seminar to be held at the American Legion Hall, 22 Grove Place in Babylon, on Wednesday, February 20 at 7:30-10PM; $18 per person and children under 16 for half price. The Seminar consists of orientation night and six consecutive evenings of intruction and exhibits. For further information, call Jack at 368-2610 days or Fred, 587-2717 evenings.

G.S.B.M.S. DANCE

The Great South Beach Mobile Sportfishermen will have their annual dance and awards night on March 15, 1980 at the Wagon Wheel restaurant in Port Jefferson at 8PM. Free cocktail hour, buffet dinner, live band, door prizes and a raffle. Tickets are $15 per person. If interested, call Chris at 475-2501. We also have our rolls open for new

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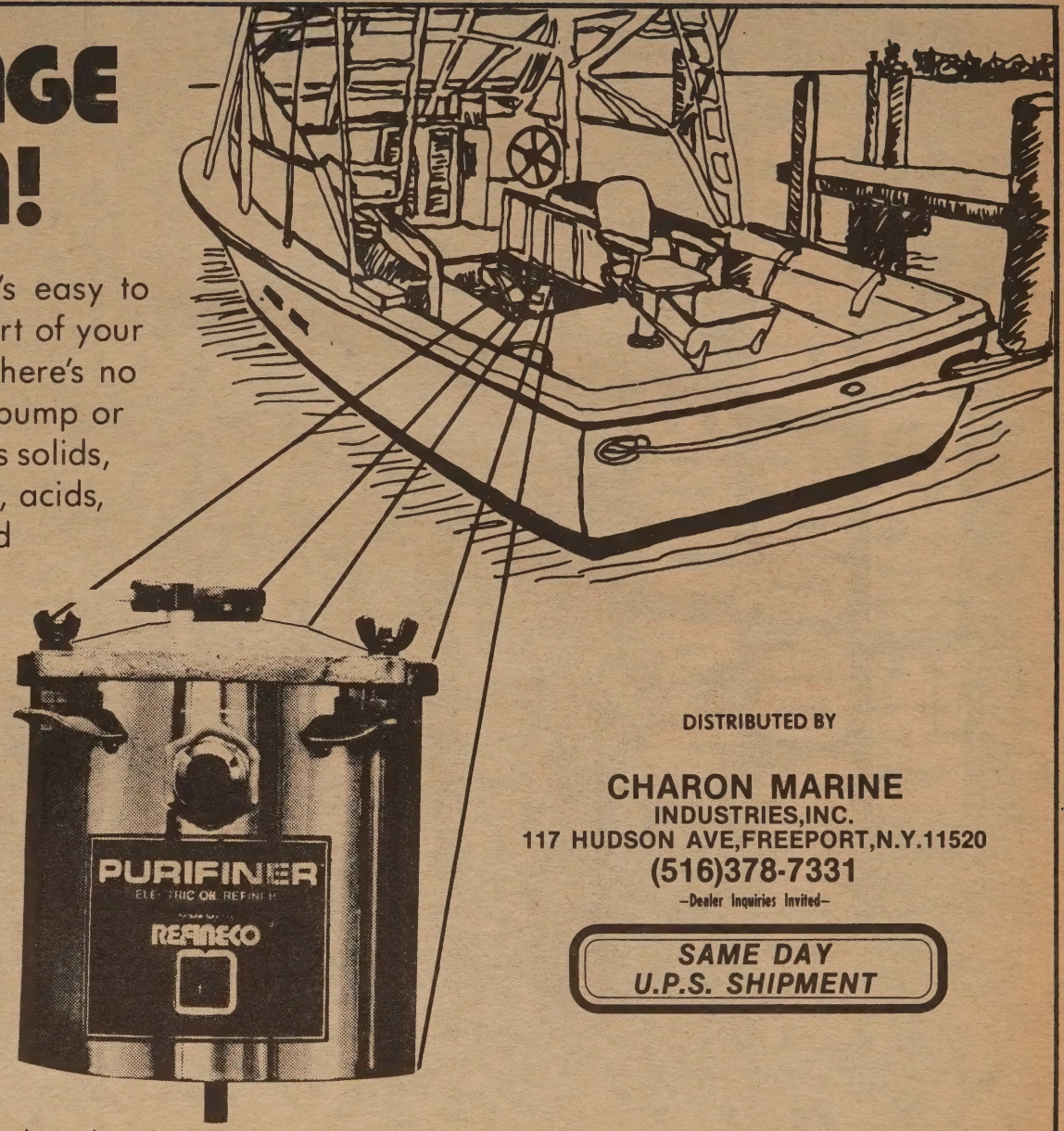

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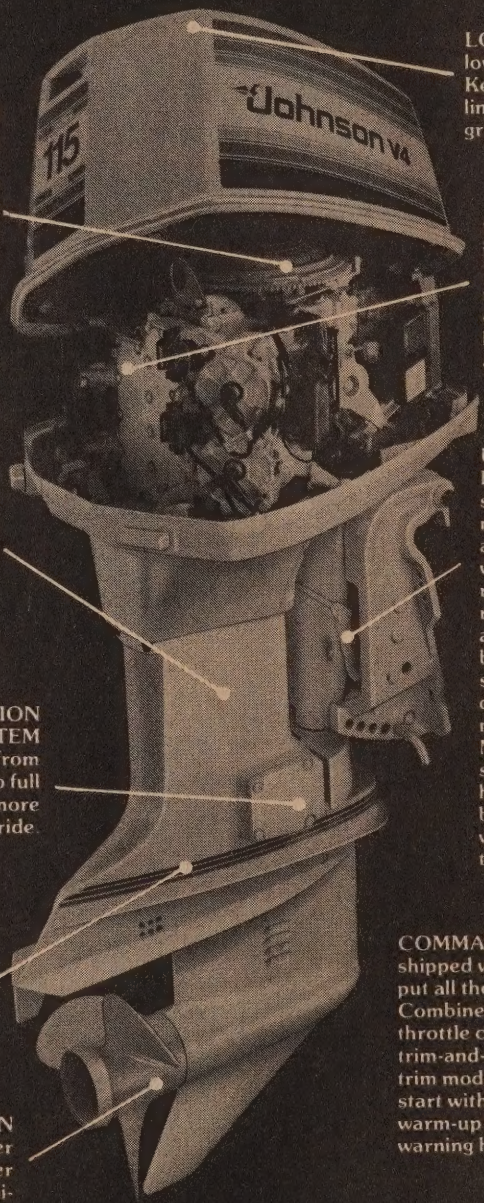

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PROGRESSIVE ISOLATION RUBBER MOUNTING SYSTEM . . . helps isolate motor vibrations from the hull at all speeds, from idle to full throttle, for smoother, quieter, more comfortable ride.

WATER-SHIELD SILENCING . . . surrounds the exhaust system with a wall of water to muffle engine noise, provide more efficient cooling.

PROPELLER PROTECTION . . . rubber shock-absorbing propeller hub helps cushion underwater impacts. Splined prop shaft eliminates the need for drive pins.

LOW PROFILE . . . up to ten inches lower than competitive motors. Keeps down out of the way of fishing lines and ski ropes. Low center of gravity means better boat handling.

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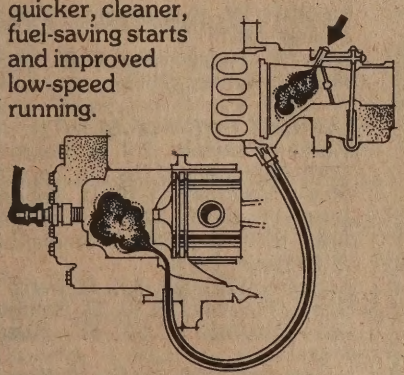
There are *many* reasons for our V-4 motor excellence. We'd like to highlight the most important. . . features which especially pay off with performance. . . and pay off at the gas pump.

Fuel economy starts with our new carburetion system.

It's new two ways. We've replaced the traditional choke with small injection nozzles that spray fuel directly at the cylinder intake ports when you push the ignition key. And our new Top-Charge™ carburetor system supplies a constant fuel/air mixture regardless the motor's tilt position. The result—even in shallow-water drive positions—is quicker, cleaner, fuel-saving starts and improved low-speed running.

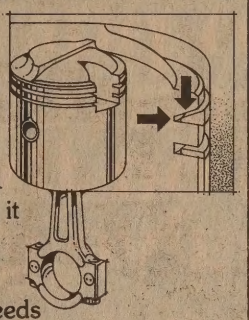


Plugs fire faster, more efficiently with our hot electronic ignition system.

Quicker starts, smoother idling and consistent running at all speeds contribute to an outboard's efficiency. That's the job of our MagFlash® electronic ignition, which does its job by zapping up to 37,000 volts to the plugs in about three millionths of a second—about 30 times faster than conventional magneto systems. And unlike many systems which use distributors, our MagFlash ignition system has no moving parts, needs no adjustments.

Patented pressure-backed piston rings increase engine efficiency and life.

We squeeze maximum power from every engine cycle, because our ring design forces combustion pressure to push the rings against the cylinder walls. This seals in more combustion power, so it works harder. And our rings work so well each piston needs just two rings, instead of the usual three, so friction and wear are reduced for longer engine life.

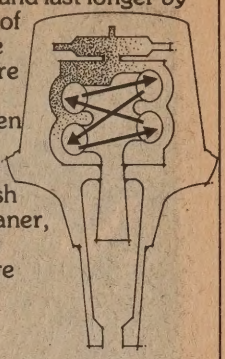


Our patented cooling system means hotter performance, from idle to full throttle.

It's both temperature *and* pressure controlled. A thermostat keeps the engine warm at low speeds, for smoother, more fuel efficient idling and running. A pressure control increases water circulation at high speeds, so the engine runs cooler, for more power and fuel efficiency. This temperature control at both ends of the power curve increases engine life, too. Some competitive outboards have neither temperature nor pressure control.

Exhaust tuning means more power on less fuel.

Our high-performance V-4s make gas work harder and last longer by using the energy of exhaust pressure waves to pull more exhaust out of each cylinder, then pack in more of the incoming fuel mixture. The fresh fuel charge is cleaner, for more efficient combustion, more power.



By now, you might get the idea from our attention to detail that we're *very* serious about our business. And you'd be right. That's why we've never stopped making our outboards better over the last 58 years. . . innovating, "downsizing" (for more power and better fuel economy from smaller motors), improving. Our new line of V-4s is a prime example. For more of the story—plus a look at our complete line, from 2 to 235 hp, and three electric motors—see your Johnson Outboards dealer. Or write for free catalog. Johnson Outboards, a product group of Outboard Marine Corporation, 200 Sea-Horse Drive, Waukegan, IL 60085.

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members interested in surf fishing. This would be a good time to get acquainted. Drop us a line at P.O.Box 66, Patchogue, N.Y. 11772.

TOURNAMENT ANGLERS

The Tournament Anglers will hold their Annual Awards Dinner at the Whitehall Club in Manhattan on March 1st. The awards will be to the following:

Yellowfin tuna, 66 lbs., Dick Yarkin, Blue Max; Trolled bluefin tuna, 57.14, Ray Nettune, Cindy Ann; mako shark, 253 lbs., Mark Paulin, Rumrunner; true albacore, 48 lbs., Jim Farrell, Blue Max; skipjack, 9.8, Julie Federocko, Patricia II; striped bass, 38.8, Joe Masone, Debra; white marlin, 46.5, Jim Farrell, Blue Max; weakfish, 11.8, Tom Graziano, Graz; (unusual) king mackerel, 10 lbs., Henry Harris, Snapshot II; bluefish, 20.4, Joe Masone, Debra; cod, 45 lbs., Joe Masone, Debra; Captain's Trophy—Joe Masone.

BAY SHORE TUNA CLUB

The Bay Shore Tuna Club is having its Annual Dinner on Saturday, March 8, 1980, at the Timber Point Country Club. The Adult annual prizes will be awarded. The recipients are:

Flounder: A. Bento, 2.9; C. Brook, 2.3.
Mackerel: J. Kusceliwiez, 2 lbs.; W. Kusceliwiez, 1.12.
Weakfish: D. Bohner, 12.11; D. Azzato, 11.6.
Fluke: B. Benincassa, 5.8; B. Stellato, 3.6.
Bonito: B. Schnalenberg, 9.12; A. Coban, 9.2.
Albacore: A. Colban and R. Ferri, 33.10—tied.
Blackfish: R. Ferri, 8.9; F. Wills, 6.7.
Bluefish: W. Kusceliwiez, 17.12; D. Bohner, 16.11.
Cod: W. Kusceliwiez & E. Wills—39.8; D. Bohner, 25.8.

LARGEST FISH FOR MONTH:

March—Flounder, 2.9, A. Bento
April—Flounder, 2 lbs., J. Zappia
May—Weakfish, 11.10, D. Bohner
June—Weakfish, 13.8, T. Conegallo
July—Bluefish, 13.8, B. Smalenberg, D. Safranek (tie)
August—Blackfish, 8.4, R. Ferri
Sept.—Bluefish, 15.13, D. Bohner
Oct.—Bluefish, 17.12, W. Kusceliwiez
Nov.—Cod, 39.8, E. Wills, W. Kusceliwiez (tied)
Dec.—Cod, 25 lbs., J. Haber

Yearly Prizes:

White marlin 105 lbs., Wm. Rauft
1st tuna & largest tuna—52 & 61 lbs. resp., N. P. Kjeldsen
Largest fish for Men and Women: D. Brewster, 323 lb. thresher; E. Brewster, 112 lb. blue shark.

SOUND SURF CLUB

On Monday, Feb. 25, the Sound Surf Fishing Club will hold its annual Trophy Night dinner at the

Sugar Bush in East Northport. The winners of awards are as follows:

Surf Bass:
J. Russo, 52.8
J. Kayal, 40.4
E. Parkinson, 27.4

Surf Blue:
H. Klerk, 16.0
S. Inzone, 12.8
N. Pecororo, 6.8

Surf Weak:
F. Meyer, 12.0
J. Kayal, 10.8
H. Klerk, 10.4

Boat Bass: E. Parkinson, 9.4
Boat BLue: L. Sclafane, 16.4
Boat Weak: L. Sclafane, 12.7
1st Pl. Team: Joe Russo, Ed Parkinson, Art Sprague, and Harry Bridges.
Montauk Tourn.: Howard Klerk
Club Champion: Joe Russo.

The Sound Surf Fishing Club is now accepting applications for the 1980 fishing season. For more information, call Frank Meyer at 588-2672.

GATEWAY STRIPER CLUB

The Gateway Striper Club is delighted to announce that Mr. Danny Pinchney (Mr. Danny Plug himself) will be present at the next Club meeting, with plugs, demonstrations and advice. New members are also invited to attend on Thursday, February 14 at 7:30 p.m. in Fort Tilden, Building T-125. For information, call Ron at (212) 373-0295 or Frank at (212) NR 2-8908.

BOATING

N.Y.S. Young Boatman's Colurse

Old Field Point Power Squadron will be sponsoring the N. Y. State Young Boatman's Course again this spring in conjunction with the Village of Port Jefferson which provides the facilities.

New York State law requires all youngsters between the ages of 10 and 15 inclusive to take, **and pass**, this course in order to operate a boat alone on the waters of the state. More importantly, however, is the need for our children to be knowledgeable in Boating Safety since they are on the water a great deal diluring the season. The axiom **"START 'EM YOUNG"** was never truer than in this case.

The course is given on four (4) consecutive Saturday mornings and some of the topics covered are as follows:

Rules of the Road
Aids to Navigation
Equipment Requirements
PFDs (Life Jackets)
Safety while Fueling
First Aid
Courtesy Afloat

Place: Port Jefferson Village Hall, West Broadway, Port Jefferson, N.Y.

Dates: Saturday, March 1, 9-11AM; Saturday, March 8, 9-11AM; Saturday, March 15, 9-11AM, and Saturday, March 22, 9-11AM.

Attendance at all four lessons is required for the **Safety Certificate** which will be awarded to each successful student after the examination given at the last lesson.

There is no fee for the course and registration will take place at the first class session on March 1, at 9AM.

If you would like further information, call 473-7534.

***

Have you just purchased a boat or are intending to become a sailor in the near future? Then you need to know the Rules of the Road which have been established for your safety, and learn the fundamentals of good navigation.

Sewanhaka Power Squadron can assist you FREE!

All you have to do is attend our Boating Course which covers both sail and power boats at any one of

N.Y. SPORTFISHING COUNCIL PREPARING MAILING LIST

The New York Sportfishing Council is preparing a listing of all the fishing clubs currently active in New York State. This listing will enable the Sportfishing Council to distribute information pertaining to the progress of its standing committees, proposed legislation and issues of interest to all marine anglers. Only by uniting and being organized can the marine anglers hope to have a say in the future of their sport. Please fill out the coupon below and forward it to: Bob Hunt, 30 West 22 Street, Deer Park, New York 11729. A copy of the completed list will be sent to all clubs requesting it.

CLUB NAME_____

CLUB ADDRESS_____

NAME OF CLUB REPRESENTATIVE/OFFICER_____

ADDRESS OF CLUB REPRESENTATIVE_____

PHONE NUMBER_____

Johnson OUTBOARDS DEALERS

NEW YORK

Babylon
Outboard Barn
13 Post Place

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Jamaica Bay Boat Sales
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East Hampton Marina
19 Boatyard Rd.

East Islip
Captree Boat Sales
369 East Main St.

Far Rockaway L.I.
Eddies Marine Service Corp.
Beach & Second St.

Glen Cove L.I.
Glen Cove Marina
76 Shore Rd.

Mattituck L.I.
Dickersons Marine
Main Road

Nesconset
Great Oak Marina
Jericho Turnpike

Oceanside
Eriksen's Crows Nest Marina
495 Wood St.

Seaford
Treasure Island Marine Service Center
2880 Ocean Ave.

Southhold L.I.
Ulrich Marine
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Westhampton Beach
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MANSFIELD MARINE SANITATION PRODUCTS

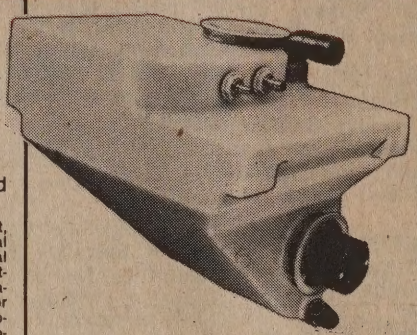
MANSFIELD MODEL TDX FLOW-THROUGH SANITATION SYSTEM

U.S. Coast Guard certified Type 1 device.

A compact, highly efficient unit, which if installed before federal pollution deadlines, provides legal overboard discharge in non-restricted navigable waters. The TDX features easy adaptability to one or more manually or electrically operated toilets, low power consumption (8amps at 12 volts) simple remote automatic treatment cycle & A TREAT & hold option. System includes a 10 gal. tank, solid state controls & electric vacuum discharge pump. Holding tank capacity 10 gallons.

TDX-E (W/Elect Discharge Pump)
LIST $799.00 *Boat Show Only!* *Special* $449.99

TDX-M (W/Manual Discharge Pump)
LIST $599.00 *Special* $399.50

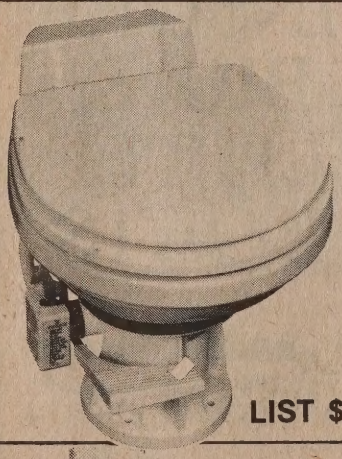


TDX-S FLOW THROUGH SANITATION SYSTEM

This newly designed treatment device was created to cope with the special space & power considerations of sailboats & smaller powerboats.

The TDX-S, a U.S. Coast Guard certified Type 1 MSD, offers the same proven service of the TDX. The TDX-S is the perfect shape for easy installation under the vee-berth or anywhere up to 15' away from the head. Uses only 1.96 amp hrs. per complete treatment cycle. 8 gal. treatment container capacity. Can be used with one or more heads. 17" fore & aft, 14" athwartship, 16½" deep. Comes without discharge pump. You choose either manual or electric pump.

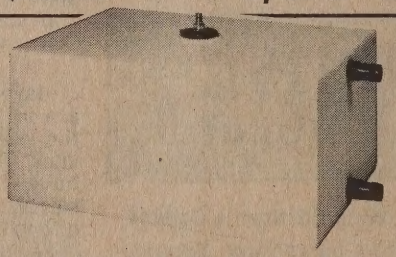
LIST $499.00 *Special* $332.79



VACU-FLUSH MARINE SANITATION SYSTEM

Operates on vacuum principle. Virtually eliminates the chance of stoppage or overflow. Automatically maintains the vacuum needed to flush & uses only about a pt. of clean water per flush. Can be valved for self pump-out of an onboard holding tank. It also offers flow-through treatment device hook-up capabilities w/the mansfield model TDX. Includes vitreous china head, 3 gal. accumulator tank & 1 12V D.C. vac. pump.

LIST $584.00 *Special* $389.55



HEAVY DUTY MARINE HOLDING TANKS

4 sizes. 1 piece, seamless construction. Heavy duty, high-density 3/8" polyethylene for trouble free service. Includes vent fitting & 2 1½" hose adapters. Complies w/U.S.C.G. regs.

NO.	DESCRIPTION	LIST	SPECIAL
4020	20 GAL. — 28½"L x 14½"W x 11½"H	$129.	$85.99
4030	30 GAL.—30"L x 20"W x 12"H	$205.	$136.75
4040	40 GAL.—30"L x 21¾"W x 13¾"H	$216.	$143.99
4055	55 GAL.—40"L x 20"W x 16"H	$299.	$199.99

TDX CHEMICAL

Biodegradable— 1 gal. required for 4 treatment cycles.

LIST $5.99 *Special* $4.15

TOILET TISSUE

2—Ply toilet tissue. Biodegradable for use in any toilet. 4 rolls per package.

LIST $2.95 *Special* $1.99

TOILET & HOLDING TANK DEODORANT

#8888 Twin Pak 2 8 oz. Liquid Chemical
#8892 6/pak box-6 2 oz. Dry Chemical Foil Packets

LIST $2.95 *Special* $1.99

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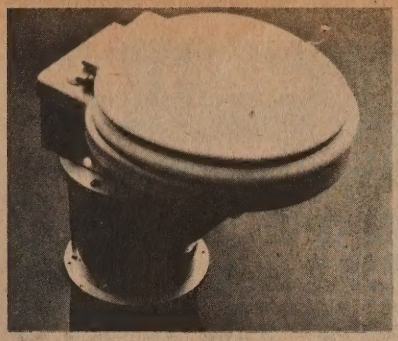


DANFORTH AUTOMATIC HEADS

Type 1 accepted for Pleasure Boats and Inspected Vessels up to 65 foot.

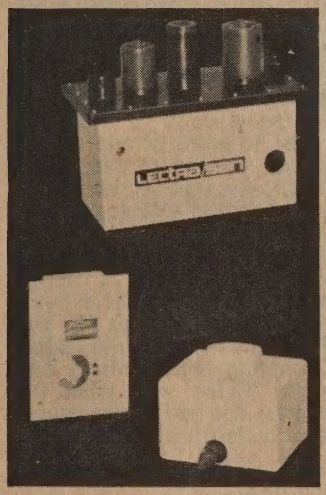
Compact, clean, self contained, easy to install and simple to operate. The heart of the unit is a patented micropulverizer which liquifies solid waste including toilet tissue; then a specially compounded bacteriacide kills the coliform bacteria almost instantly, rendering the waste chemically clean to permit overboard discharge. Toilet mount control: control console mounted on back of unit. Measures 23 5/8" from back to front. Height is 17½", width is 15¼"
No. D—1000EP

LIST $845.00 **Special $648.88**

REMOTE BULKHEAD MOUNT CONTROL:

Even more compact as controls are supplied in their own self contained package for remote mounting. Measures 19½" front to back, 17½" high, 15¼" wide.
No. D—1000RP

LIST $952.00 **Special $729.99**



LECTRA SAN

Type 1,Certified flow thru waste treatment system. Designed for simple installation. All electrical controls are inside wall mounted unit. One cable connects control box in toilet compartment with pre-wired treatment unit. A practical system that eliminates the need for holding tanks & recirculating heads generates it's own disinfecting agent during the 2 minute treatment cycle.

LIST $525.00
Special $399.99

PAR "Y" WASTE VALUE

When installed in waste systems, waste can be pumped directly into a holding tank or diverted to an overboard discharge fitting.

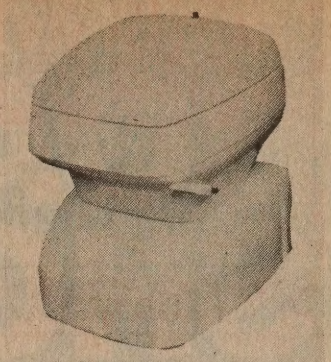
All ABS & stainless steel construction to withstand corrosive waste chemicals. All fittings are for 1½" I.D. hose.

LIST $34.94 **Special $25.15**

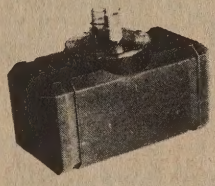
BAHIA MAR BY PAR

The Bahia Mar is a low profile head, mounted on a rugged 8 gal. holding tank.

Toilet is fit with a Jabsco 12V D.C. self priming flush water pump. Tank & toilet form an attractive compact solution to U.S.C.G. toilet regs. Foot pedal operates flush pump. Flush water intake ¾" hose. Tank vent ¾" fitting. Tank pump out fitting 1½". Mounting hardware incl. 17" wide, 21" deep, 20" high.



LIST $266.55 **Special $179.95**



"MINITANK" WASTE HOLDING TANK

Lightweight, rugged, compact & easy to install.

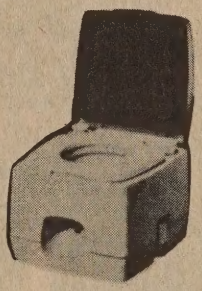
Tough polyethylene. 18"x9"x13". Can be used with all types of marine heads. May be used to comply w/ U.S.C.G. regs. calling for a type III MSD. Includes mounting straps and hardware. 6 gal. capacity. Inlet & outlet fits 1½" hose. Vent ¾" hose.

LIST $75.00 **Special $49.95**

MONOGRAM MARINER PORTABLE TOILET

A supurb 2 piece portable model.

Constructed of durable ABS plastic with a smart white gloss finish. Self contained lightweight, exceptionally compact. The top section holds a 5 gal. fresh water supply. Bottom waste tank has a 3 gal. capacity. 13½" ht.,16¾"wd.,16¾"deep.



LIST $133.25 **Special $83.29**

JABSCO MACERATOR PUMP

Waste pump out unit macerator feature.

Grinds waste as it pumps at 9 GPM rate. Self priming, lightweight, easy to install. 12 volts. 1½" NPT inlet, ¾" garden hose discharge.

LIST $89.95 **Special $62.95**

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Feb. 16-24, 1980
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- Shear, flare and entry gives smooth, dry ride!
- Cathedral Tri-Hull design is surefooted and stable!
- Compare our weight and beam with the competition! We're 1400 pounds, 7'4" beam!
- Absolutely unsinkable! Loads of deck space!

14', 16' & 20' MODELS ALSO AVAILABLE

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the following locations, commencing at 8PM:

Wed., Feb. 27—Herricks Comm. Center

Thurs., Feb. 28—Garden City H.S.

Wed., March 5—Elmont Memorial High School

Thurs., March 6—Sewanhaka H.S.

Our teachers dedicate their time in a friendly, personal atmosphere that we are sure you will enjoy. Come join us and learn the techniques of safe boat handling under way and docking. Learn about buoys and rights of way, and charts and beacons, compasses, anchoring, basic knots, etc.

From these basics you may proceed further at your desire to courses in Seamsnship, Advanced Piloting, Weather, Marine Electronics, Engine Maintenance and Celestial Navigation—all under the guidance of teachers giving their time free of charge.

For further information, call Cdr. Pollio, 516-437-3381 or Lt. Cdr. Golub, 516-285-6489.

***

South Shore Power Squadron will offer its 12-lesson boating course at four Long Island locations starting **February 26** at **Freeport**, and **February 27** at **Oceanside, East Meadow** and **Plainview.**

The course is open to men and women over 15-years of age. There is no charge for the course which will be taught by experienced expert instructors. There is a $5 fee for the course material which can be shared by a family.

Ownership of a boat is not a requirement to take the course.

Subjects include Rules of the Road, Piloting, Seamanship, Chart Work, Trailering, Fire Safety, and much more. Those who pass the examination at the end of the course will receive a Certificate of Completion.

For further information, call: 379-8532 or 671-2186.

***

Annual Boating Safety and Seamanship Course sponsored by Flotilla 11-4 of the Coast Guard Auxiliary will begin Tuesday evening, March 4, 1980 at Kingsborough Community College in Manhattan Beach, Brooklyn.

The lectures will be given on successive Tuesdays from 7:30 to 10PM, for 14 sessions.

The subjects covered will include Safety, Boathandling, Trailering, Sailing, Weather, First Aid, Radiotelephone, etc., with special attention given to Navigational Aids, Chart Reading and Piloting Problems.

At the conclusion of the course a certificate will be given for Completion of Course by the Coast Guard Auxiliary. For further information, write or call: Grover Fining, Flotilla Cdr. 11-4, 3 Holmes Lane, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11236, CH 1-8395 after 5PM.

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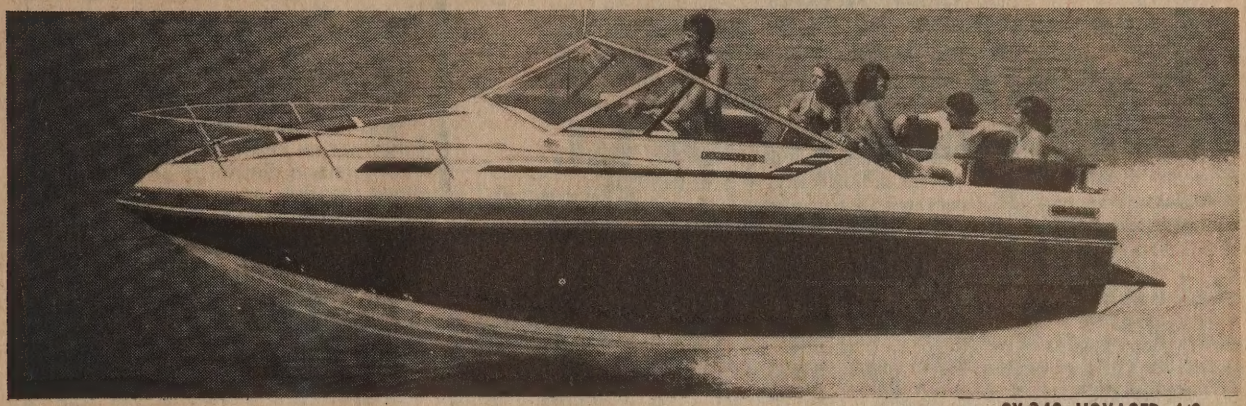

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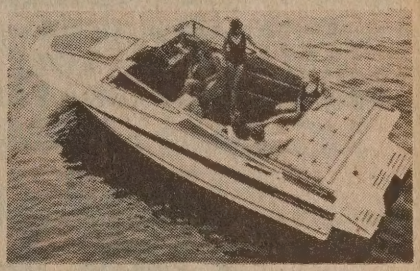

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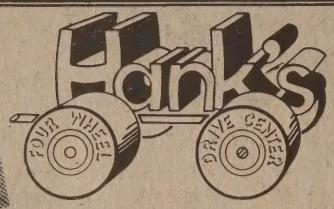

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DISCOUNT JEEP PARTS on LONG ISLAND!!!

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Atlantic Harbor Outboard Service
Wants *YOU* as a Customer!
Our Specialty is *SERVICE* on JOHNSON & EVINRUDE Outboards and OMC STERNDRIVES!!!
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Pass It On...

NEW SENATE COMMITTEE FORMED FOR L. I. FISHING

State Senator Owen H. Johnson (R-4) was recently named the chairman of a Senate Subcommittee on the Long Island Marine District. State Senator Warren Anderson (R-Cons., Binghamton) Majority Leader of the New York State Senate, appointed the Subcommittee on the Marine District to deal with Long Island's surrounding water resources. In naming Senator Johnson to chair the Subcommittee, Senator Anderson stated that Johnson was chosen because of his first hand knowledge and experience with the marine resource problems in his Long Island district in addition to his long tenure as a member of the Conservation and Recreation Committee.

The Subcommittee will deal with all legislation now pending in the Senate Conservation and Recreation Committee that affects the resources found in Long Island waters. Senator Johnson stated that the Subcommittee will take a very active role in securing public opinion on legislation relating to the shellfish industry, weakfish, size limits for striped bass and winter flounder, conservation enforcement, commercial fishing practices such as gillnetting and trawling, and navigation problems.

Senator Johnson stated: "Because of Long Island's vast marine resources and corresponding issues and problems, it is necessary to provide Long Islanders a more direct access to the Conservation and Recreation Committee. This Subcommittee will provide just that."

Senator Johnson has already scheduled the first hearing by the Subcommittee for February 23 at 10AM in Babylon Town Hall.

Senator Johnson concluded, "I would hope that all citizens who have an interest in Long Island's marine resources will attend and voice their opinions on the proposals scheduled to be discussed."

PUBLIC HEARING ON FISH TRAPS, DRAGGING IN GSB & GILLNETS

The Subcommittee on Long Island Marine District seeks public testimony on the following bills and proposals:

S 4878-B, an act to amend Sec. 13-0341 of the Environmental Conservation Law in relation to the use of beam and otter trawls in South Shore Bays.

S 4888, an act to amend the Environmental Conservation Law in relation to the marking and size of gill nets in the Great South Bay.

Several proposals to establish a ...

S.T.P.A. Boat Show Specials

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Great Savings as seen in our FREE Catalog at all STPA Locations

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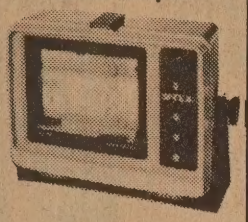


A powerful 200 khz machine which brings back maximum detail and resolution between small echoes with pin point accuracy. Reliable. 6 ranges from 0-12 ft. on the first scale down to 384ft. on the last scale. Adj. white line control, variable paper speed, event marker and lighted range scale.
Ship Wt. 18lbs. Stock#5388256

List $449.00

$299.95

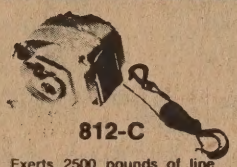
Powerwinch

712-C

Exerts 1500 pounds of line pull*, handles boats weighing up to 3000 pounds. Comes complete with wiring kit, 40 amp circuit breaker, remote control cord, emergency hand crank, 25 feet of 3/16" aircraft cable, safety hooks. Red weather-resistant super tuf ABS housing.
Ship Wt. 34 Lbs. Stock #366712

List $229.95

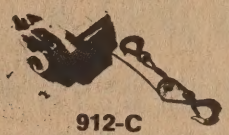
$149



812-C

Exerts 2500 pounds of line pull* (double line), handles boats weighing up to 5000 pounds. With wiring kit, 80 amp circuit breaker, remote control cord, emergency hand crank, 50 feet of 3/16" aircraft cable, pulley block with large, heavy-duty safety hooks (for double line operation only). Yellow-super tuf ABS housing.
Ship Wt. 36 Lbs. Stock #366812

List $289.95 **$189**



912-C

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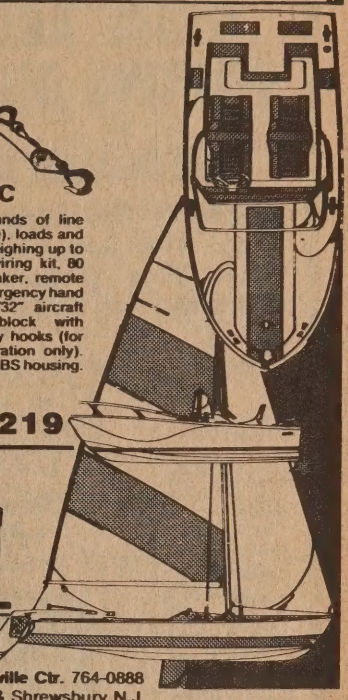

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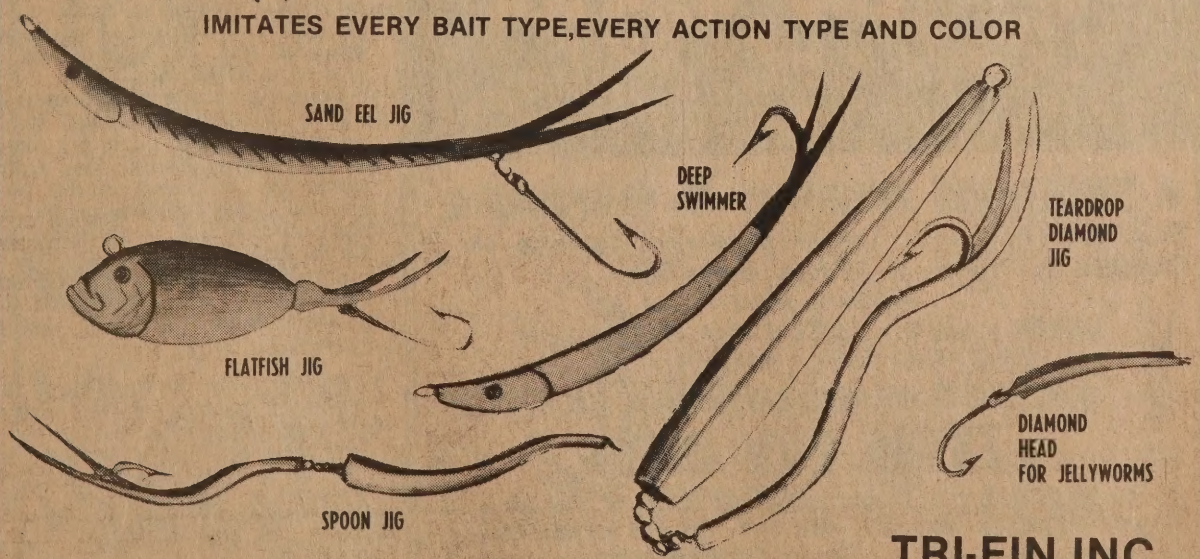

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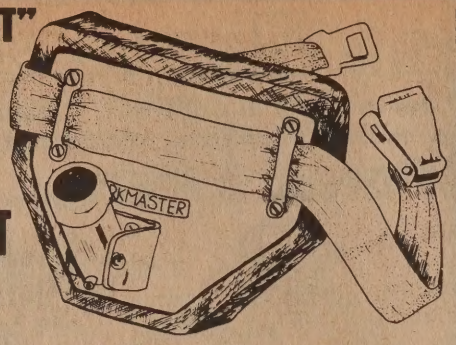

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A proposal to amend the Environmental Conservation Law in relation to prohibiting the construction of fish pound traps in the waters of Block Island Sound adjacent to parks developed for recreational purposes.

Date: February 23, 1980.
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Place: Babylon Town Hall, 200 E. Sunrise Highway, Lindenhurst, New York.

For information and copies of bills, or to reserve a specific time to speak, please call 669-9200. Written testimony will be accepted on other topics.

STRIPED BASS SYMPOSIUM IN 1980

The Fifth Annual Marine Recreational Fisheries Symposium to be held at the Copley Plaza Hotel in Boston, Massachusetts, on March 27 and 28, 1980, will be devoted to striped bass research and management problems.

A decline in the abundance of this popular food and game fish on both the East and West Coasts of the United States will be examined from several aspects. Session I (science and data) will deal with the harvest of the resource; social and economic impacts; and the biology of the resource, including the level of our knowledge and needs for management. Session II (Management) will examine existing institutions and impediments to management; and selected issues relative to striped bass from environmental, resource and institutional perspectives.

Of particular interest to recreational fishermen is the planned "Anglers' Forum" to be held at the New England Aquarium on the night of March 26. Though this session will by no means be limited to the subject of striped bass, symposium speakers and participants will be present to answer questions.

The striped bass conference is the fifth in a series of annual symposiums dealing with important recreational fisheries issues. The symposiums are sponsored by the International Game Fish Association, the National Coalition for Marine Conservation, the National Marine Fisheries Service, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the Sport Fishing Institute.

Recreational fishing clubs are urged to send a representative. Advance registration fee (prior to February 15, 1980) is $30 and includes a cloth cover book of the proceedings, luncheon with a featured speaker, refreshments at sessions, and a materials packet. More information and registration and hotel reservation forms are available from IGFA. The address is: International Game Fish Association, 3000 East Las Olas Boulevard, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 3316.

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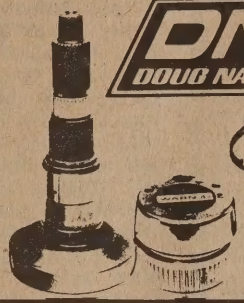

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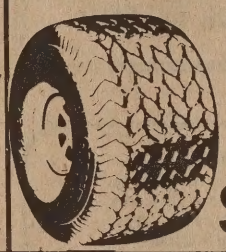

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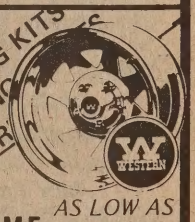

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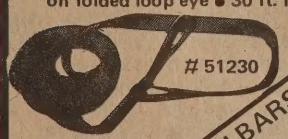

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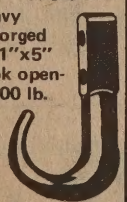

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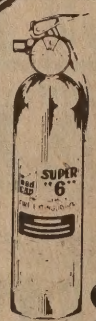

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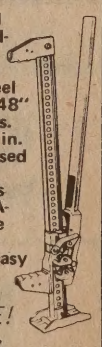

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READER LIKED N.Y. BOAT SHOW ISSUE

Your January 10 issue was absolutely breaktaking. I've followed your magazine for years and can only say "keep up the phenomenal job you are doing." The quality of your January 10 issue was remarkable. Not only was it pleasing to the eye and a delight to flip through, but it was chock-full of useful information that keeps fishing alive in our hearts all winter long.

I especially enjoyed the column on Surf Safety Tips, in that I am basically a surf fisherman. I think at times all of us take the power of the surf for granted and that article reminded me not to get careless and wind up in an unwieldly situation. Other articles of extreme interest were, putting tackle in its place, basic rod building and the review of 1979 at Montauk.

Thank you for providing us with the best value on the magazine stand. I have compiled a mountain of knowledge about fishing from your magazine in 1979 and can tell that there will be much more in 1980. I am anxiously awaiting my next issue. You all deserve a pat on the back for a "quality" job well done. *Mitch Blasberg.*

CODFISH FIGHT!

I want to tell a short story that might introduce some anglers into the sport of codfishing. I've been putting aside codfishing for a couple of years because friends of mine have been telling me that cod don't fight and very few cod are caught. But last Friday (Jan. 25, 1980) I decided to take my chances and give codfishing a try. I went out on a local party boat that left at 6AM. The day I went out there was very little wind and the sea was calm. There were about twenty people on the boat and we got to the fishing grounds about 7:15. By 8:00 a steady (slow) pick started. Then about 9:30, I felt a heavy pounce on my rod so I set the hook. That cod went straight down and after five minutes I gained about ten feet of line. Finally ten minutes later, I had him at the surface and the mate gaffed him. Well, it was my first cod and it weighed 43 lbs. Later that day, I hooked into another cod of 31 lbs. I ended off the day with the two cod. Not bad for a first time out. The boat got about 50 cod that day but about 15 or so went to the mates working on the boat. So you see, cod do fight (hard) and codfishing is worth a try. I hope this story will get some of the fishermen to climb out of bed and onto the boats. Thank you, *Ira Kitograd.*

Cod probably received their undeserved reputation as being poor fighters from anglers who have only caught them in very cold, deep water when the fish are naturally sluggish. You're right, Ira—they're great battlers and deserve the name of Brown Bombers. In my personal opinion, the striped bass hasn't been born yet that could outfight the same size cod caught in water up to 50 feet deep. Scott Simons.

QUESTION ON FOUL WEATHER GEAR

I have an important question for the Tackle Doctor. I have been fishing for a good ten years now, mostly on party boats and rented skiffs. I have yet to buy a decent set of rain gear. I have tried numerous brands and they all seem to crack, rip, etc. During my many trips on party boats I have seen a lot of old salts with (Helly Hansen) gear.

I have been told it stays like new. I live in Brooklyn and would like to know where to buy or mail away for them.

I also would like to thank the staff of the L.I.F. for the most informative magazine on my favorite sport. *B. J. Howell, Bklyn., N.Y.*

As with most things in life, you get what you pay for—and foul weather gear is no exception. I think you'll find the article "Selecting Foul Weather Gear" by Charlie Soares on pages 38 and 39 of this issue very informative. Scott Simons.

HAIR DRYER MAY BE DANGEROUS

In your Jan. 10, 1980 Issue #2, you have an article entitled, "A Method for Storage," by J. C. Standish. I found this information very interesting except for one thing: you describe a method of drying gas tanks with a hair dryer. I have been a mechanic for quite a few years, and being familiar with safety is second nature. May I suggest that for safety's sake instead of someone using a hair dryer to dry out any remaining water that might still be in the tank, that they use a can of dry gas. I have found that no matter how much you wash out a fuel tank there is always a chance of fumes, and if you have a chance take a look at some of the hair dryers you might use to dry the tank out with. The nozzle coils sometimes get red hot. Any fumes that might still be there could cause serious damage. I hope this is a help to you. Keep up the good work. *R. G. Reffi, Copiague, NY.*

If a fisherman were to use a hair dryer on a freshly emptied gas tank, then I would agree that there would exist a definite chance for a fire and/or explosion. However, if you re-read the Standish article you'll note that on the second page of the article, J.C. states that he washes the gas tank out several times with warm soapy water prior to using the hair dryer. Under these circumstances there will be very little danger of an accident. Perhaps there is substance to the notion of being a little extra careful. I have had to clean a gas tank on several occasions and I have opted to let the open tank sit around in the open air for a few days after careful washing. Either way, the tank gets just as dry. Dr. W. A. Muller.

WANTS A TV SERIES ON L. I. FISHING

Dear Mr. Scott, I address my letter to you because I am sure you will give me a satisfactory answer. My letter concerns a fishing program on TV. All the other sports such as golf, basketball, baseball and so on, have TV shows. Why can't us fishermen have a fishing program? I think every fisherman in New York would agree with me. I would like to know why there couldn't be a program on fishing at least once a week. I know that on Long Island they have classes on boating safety and so on. It is impossible for me to attend these classes because the distance is too much for me.

The point that I am trying to bring up is that I am sure that a lot of fishermen like myself would like to get involved in something to keep us busy in the winter since we can't fish. Each winter's day feels like a year to me. *M. Batista, Bklyn., N.Y. You'll be happy to hear that L.I.F. has been actively working on a 26-week television series on Long Island fishing that will be aired in 1981. Stay tuned.* Scott Simons.

QUERY ON GREAT WHITE SHARK MOUNT

I was very much impressed by your recent shark cover photo and would like to know if the great white in the picture was an actual skin mount?

The mount of the great white shark pictured in the photo is a Fiberglas reproduction made from a mold of the actual fish. The shark was mounted by Steve Leeds of True Life Taxidermy in Middle Island. What is most interesting about this mount is that it represents, to the best of our knowledge, the first time that a great white of this size was actually molded into a mount. As Steve Leeds was preparing the fish for molding, he was constantly visited by marine biologists and newsmen wanting to view and study this fine specimen. If you would like some additional information, feel free to contact Steve at his studio, 516-698-4060 or 212-766-4515. Scott Simons.

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LORAN C QUESTIONS

In reference to your article "Loran C for Small Boats," in the latest issue of The Fisherman, I have one basic question: when reading the numbers from a chart how do you estimate so accurately the "10th" digit? I have a set that I have been using for several years and I have to estimate the last number off the chart, notwithstanding the "10th." Let me in on your secret.

Congratulations on a fine article. Loran C is superb and I would not be without it. *Dr. E. Anker, Riverhead, N.Y.*

***

Your article on the Loran C had me pinned to my chair. You made it so exciting and informative. I felt I was on your boat. I was so tickled with the article that I said to my wife, "I wonder if this guy would write the same type article about "Paper Recorders."

Last year I purchased a Sitex Recorder Model 256. The bottom shows up beautiful, yet I find it difficult to identify fish. Thank you. *S. Paradise, Roslyn Hts., N.Y.*

***

I have been a subscriber to LIF for a long time, and I have read and enjoyed your articles for many years, especially your latest "Loran C for Small Boats." It was especially timely because I have been thinking about getting a Loran C for my boat which is a Mako 25.

While I have read a great deal about Loran, not much of it sinks in, and I feel that I am getting denser as I get older. Your article was very helpful, and I have read it many times. I wish that you would do another article on Loran and maybe cover some of the items which seemed too simply for you to cover in this article; i.e., selecting the right chain, interpolation, etc.

My boat has two radios—VHF and CB—and thus has two antennas. I've read that the antenna for the Loran should be 10' from the others. This would be impossible on my boat. The BEST LOCATION (for the Loran C, not the antenna) for me would be about a foot from my compass. Wouldn't this throw the compass off?

In your article you show a portion of the nautical chart for Montauk with the 14000 and 43000 Loran C lines. On my chart 13205 23rd edition, Jan. '78, I can't find those numbers at all. What am I doing wrong? *Bob Johnston, Dobbs Ferry, N.Y.*

We received many inquiries for further information on Loran Cs after the article appeared in Issue #2. It is impossible to answer them all in limited space, however, so we suggest that anyone who needs detailed information visit their local marine electronics dealer. To answer the questions posed in the three letters above: I use my "eyeball" to guesstimate the number for the 10th digit, which seems reasonably accurate, although I understand there is a plastic measuring device available on the market for this purpose. Where, and for how much, I do not know.

To answer Bob's queries, yes it is possible for a Loran or any type of electrical equipment to interfere with the compass. Our recommendation is to consult a compass adjustor such as Jens Jacobs for advice. Bob's problem with the Loran chart is that he is using the wrong one. Just ask any nautical chart dealer for a chart that has the Loran chain that you wish to use. Bob probably had a Loran A chart rather than one for Loran C numbers.

Sam's problem is more than likely one of being unfamiliar with the sensitivity controls on the machine, a common problem. These controls can be extremely sensitive, and having them adjusted wrong with the conditions under which you are fishing can be critical. On my Sitex Recorder, I could identify squid, whiting, and mackerel on the same paper because the sensitivity was fine tuned at about 5½ on the dial. But if I moved that dial to 6, I wouldn't see any fish, just a nice readout of the bottom formation. So play with your dials a little more. Scott Simons.

COMMENT ON '79 BLUEFISH HEARING

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on an article written in 1979. Your article was titled, "Save the Bluefish."

I attended the meeting in Rockville Center and I must comment that you article was elegantly written and with such strength that I was amazed about the turnout. There were several blocks of people hoping to participate in the meeting and the surrounding roads were jammed with automobiles.

I favor bass fishing and I wonder why wasn't there such a forceful turnout. At this time, bass are rarely caught by weekend fishermen.

I must issue that I'm a young person and a hopeful future fisherman. I stress hopeful for we stopped them once, but who knows what the future may hold. *Ronald Stallone, Hicksville.*

You hit the nail on the head and answered your own question with the line "...bass are rarely caught by weekend fishermen. Fact of the matter is for every person who seriously fishes for bass, there are hundreds of casual bluefishermen, making the bluefish much more important to recreational sportfishing when viewed in a broad sense. Thus the unprecedented large turnout of more than 2,000 sport fishermen to save blues from the ravages of unregulated commercial fishing. Scott Simons.

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CAPTAIN'S TABLE

with Eileen Regina

WHITING BERCY

Once there was a time when fish was the most economical dish to prepare, but with our rampant inflation this is no longer true. Even back in "the good old days," when prices were more reasonable, a fish dinner cost less than any meat dinner to purchase and prepare. Added to their low cost was the fact that most of our fish was never purchased anyway, but usually caught by Andy—which actually is a misconception in the first place, because most of the time the fish he caught ended up several times more expensive than store-bought ones!

Looking at it in the cold, harsh light of reality, total costs of equipment, carfare, bait, refreshments, lunch (what an expense that always proved to be!), boat fare, etc., some flounder fillets that went for about eighty-nine cents a pound in the stores at the time, always actually ended up costing more than three dollars a pound! If his total cash outlay was, say, fifteen dollars, and he came home with fifteen, one pound fish (on one of his good days!), we would be lucky to come up with five pounds of edible fillets (if the mad butcher did a good job with the knife!). Simple mathematics proved time and again that we would have saved a bundle if Andy had made a trip to the supermarket instead of to Captree!

In fishing, the intangibles weigh heavily; hence his arguments that fresh air and sunshine could never be fixed with a price tag, or that fresh-caught fish taste better than store-bought fish. But the plain truth of the matter is that most of the time it was worth whatever it cost just to get him out of the house for a few hours. How can you put a price on peace and quiet?

There were times, however, when my great provider actually did return with a good catch of fish, even by normal standards, and some of those times were when he went fishing for whiting aboard a party boat out of Sheepshead Bay. At those times when he brought home thirty or forty fish, we would have a freezer-full for several months—which knocked his theory of fresh fish tasting better into a cocked hat. It never failed to amaze me when he would comment on how great that fresh fish tasted, even if it had spent a couple of months in our freezer!

Anyhow, trying to pinch pennies like everyone else today, I recently came across several delicious whiting recipes in our newspaper, tried each personally, and would like very much to pass them on to you. Today's recipe is but one of three; if you'd like to follow along with us, the other recipes will follow in future issues of The Fisherman.

WHITING BERCY

Ingredients: (Serves four)

4 portion-sized whitings
5 tbsps. butter
1-1/2 tbsps. minced shallots
2 tbsps. minced parsley
1/2 lb. fresh mushrooms
3/4 cup dry white wine
1 small whole bay leaf
salt and pepper to taste

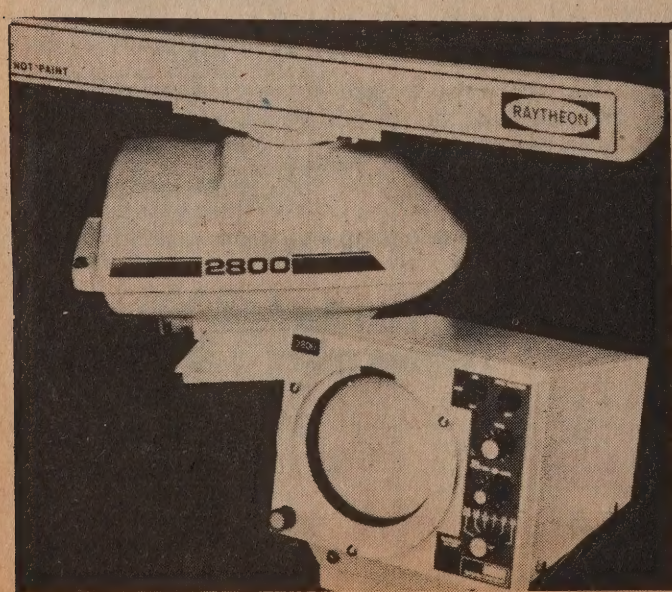
Clean and trim fish. Grease a baking dish with butter amply, sprinkle minced shallots and minced parsley in the bottom of the baking dish and place whiting on top. Trim and clean mushrooms, chop them and saute in two tablespoons of butter, stirring often until they are soft and fairly dry. Pour wine over the fish, season with salt and pepper, add the bay leaf, spread the sauteed mushrooms over the whiting, and dot each fish with the remaining butter.

Cook on top of stove for about five minutes over a steady, even heat; then bake in oven for 15 minutes at 375°, or until the sauce is quite reduced and the fish flakes easily. Spoon pan juices over the fish when serving, garnish with lemon wedges and whole sprigs of curly parsley. Perfect complements would be parsleyed whole new potatoes and green peas.

NOTE: This dish can also be prepared using whiting fillets instead of whole fish. Simply reduce the cooking time in the oven to 10 minutes, and bake at 400° instead of previously mentioned 375°.

Whichever you serve, whole fish or fillets, the parsleyed potatoes and green peas goes well with. Wine served should be any good dry white wine, served at room temperature or just slightly chilled, and the whole meal topped off with a simple tossed green salad.

*****



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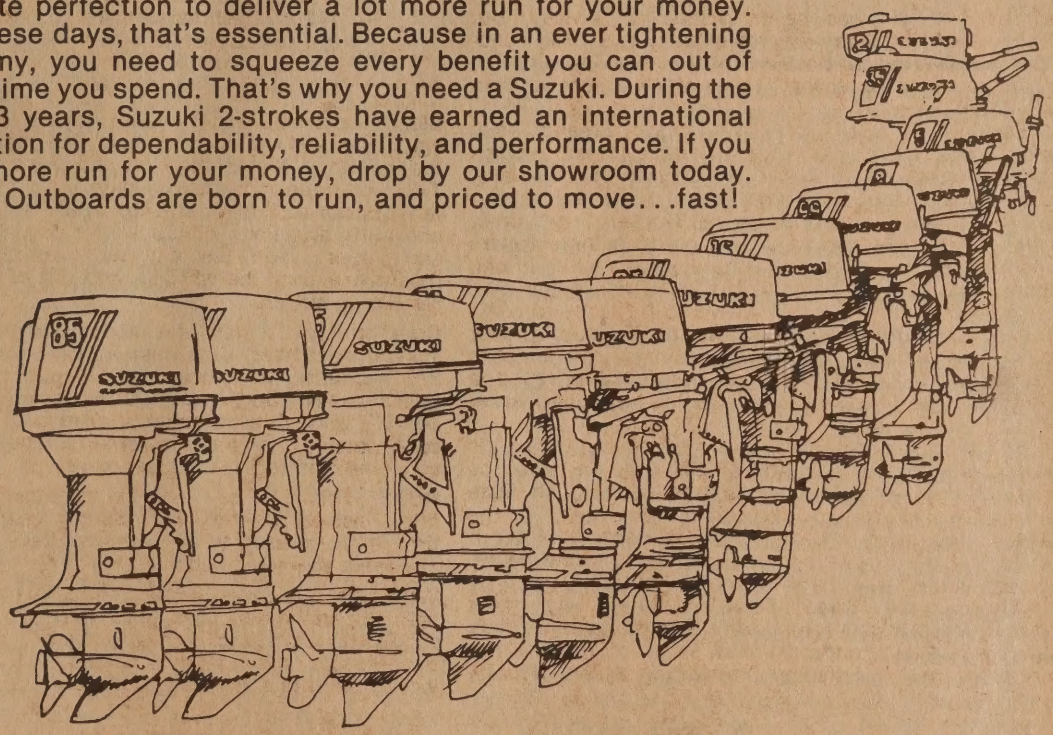

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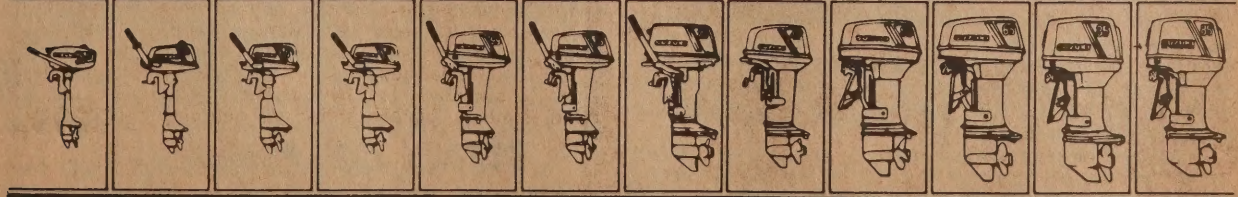

Last week we talked about the rather poor outlook for striped bass, based on the decline of recent years. Fortunately, I can lead off this piece on a very hopeful note: the bluefish should be back this year as strong as ever. Of course, bluefish have mysteriously disappeared at other times in the past when they had been extremely abundant—but I'm willing to bet that we won't see any such occurrence in 1980.

Every indication at present points to a very healthy fishery, with many year classes well represented.

NATIONAL SCENE

with Al Ristori

1979 IN RETROSPECT

—CONCLUSION—

Indeed, it's just about the opposite situation from the one we're faced with relative to striped bass. In the case of bluefish, there is no one dominant year class, and the smaller sizes have been well represented for several years now. When I talk about smaller sizes I'm referring not to snapper blues, but to small adults of one to four pounds. Snappers are not a reliable indication of future bluefish abundance. They always seem to be everywhere in the bays during August and September, but that was also the case back in the days when adult bluefish were very scarce.

When bluefish started making their big comeback in the late Fifties, you could watch them grow every year. At that time, three and four pounders were considered good-sized, and a seven pounder was large. A ten pound bluefish was a trophy fish in those days. By the mid-Sixties, ten pounders were common enough and there seemed to be no limit to just how big bluefish could get. This all came to a head on January 30, 1972 when James M. Hussey boated a 31¾ lb. blue in Hatteras Inlet, N.C. Though blues in the low twenties are caught every year, no one has even come close to that record fish taken eight years ago. However, as that first massive year class of bluefish faded away, the fishing continued with succeeding year classes providing even more action.

During the past couple of years, it's been the smaller bluefish that have dominated the scene. Anglers in the Sound loaded up on small blues just as they did in the early part of the decade, and vast numbers of these fish provided summer and fall action from Gardiner's Bay to Block Island. Western Long Island fishing was also dominated by smaller blues, rather than the larger fish that prevailed during the middle of the decade. Fortunately, there were also plenty of big blues around last year—though fishing for them wasn't consistent until the end of the season. Yet, almost invariably, the bigger bluefish stayed in deep waters. Metropolitan area boats had to burn a lot of fuel chasing after the bluefish around the Mud Hole for the first part of the season, and the best fishing to the east occurred off Block Island, the Cartwright Grounds, and Patchogue in waters around one hundred feet deep.

While small blues provided plenty of surface action last year, the big fish tended to feed deep. With sand eels now the dominant forage fish throughout the area, chumming has become relatively ineffective—and the diamond jig has become the most effective weapon in the bluefisherman's tackle box.

As long as commercial pressure remains at modest levels, we should continue to enjoy bonanza bluefishing for years to come. The species actually seems to thrive on the pressure exerted by the huge sport fishing fleet. It may well be that the constant thinning process of this pressure has helped to prevent the spread of disease and kept the bluefish in balance with its food supply. In any case, we haven't experienced the classic "boom and bust" cycle as was predicted when this run started about a quarter century ago and I'm not looking for any great change in the near future.

I wish I could be as optimistic about some of our other important species. The spring and early summer run of fluke in the western portion of the region was outstanding, and there were enough left over to provide a good spurt of action in September along the Jersey coast. However, I wouldn't be surprised if we have to pay the price for "overkill" this summer. Fishing to the east has been declining for years. Doormats aren't nearly as abundant as they were during the middle of the decade and small fluke are even scarcer. Commercial pressure on this species is great and unrelenting. A large winter fishery off the North Carolina coast takes a tremendous amount of fluke, including many well under New York's fourteen inch limit. With prices so high, even those paper thin fluke are retained. The long term outlook for this species is not good.

Though the big year class of weakfish that fueled the comeback of that species is gradually fading away, there have been some hopeful signs. Some smaller weakfish were mixed in with the tiderunners in the spawning areas last spring, and Peconic Bay had a substantial run of small weaks during the summer. Baby weaks have been showing up around the docks in most bays but, like the snapper blues, they aren't a good indication of what's to come. As a kid in Merrick, I used to catch baby weaks in great numbers—at the very time that the adults were fading out of the picture altogether! Though the spring run wasn't very consistent, the weaks surprised us with some great spurts of action during the summer and fall. They really bailed out the party boats to the west on a number of occasions when the blues went on a hunger strike, and also provided some great light tackle sport at Montauk. Unfortunately, nothing has been done to protect the present run of weakfish and the growth of pair-trawling along the coast may really have a devastating effect on this species. Undoubtedly, there'll be some very big weakfish in Delaware, Peconic and Great South Bays in May; perhaps even a world record.

While fishing for big porgies was off and on in eastern areas last season, small porgies were never more abundant. This was particularly true in Gardiner's Bay, and that development bodes well for the coming season. At least that will be the case if those fish don't get wiped out over the winter by the small mesh nets used by some domestic offshore trawlers. The dumping of small, almost valueless porgies by trawlers during the winter is a disgrace. There hasn't been anything but small porgies to the west for years and I don't expect any change in that situation.

The spring whiting run last year was relatively poor, but I look for improvement this year. Ling should continue plentiful and the spring mackerel may last a little longer. Sea bass fishing seems to be improving slowly in the west, and can't get any worse out east. If the mild winter weather continues, flounders will leave the bays early—so be ready to get in on the best action in April.

With the oceanic species it's always guesswork, but I think it's safe to say that shark fishing will continue to gain in popularity and, with more lines in the water, more and bigger sharks will be caught. Hopefully, the tagging and releasing of sharks not wanted for food or trophies will also become more common. Despite sky-high fuel prices, Canyon fishing will continue to gain adherents—and the yellowfin tuna catch will probably exceed that of the bluefin. "Mini-giant" bluefin tuna (300-400 lbs.) should provide some thrills this year, but don't look for great numbers of schoolies—or more than a few giants.

The only thing sure about 1980 is that it will have its high points and low points just as has been the case with every fishing season. However, if you put in the time and fish for what's available, there's no doubt that you'll have happy memories at this time next year!

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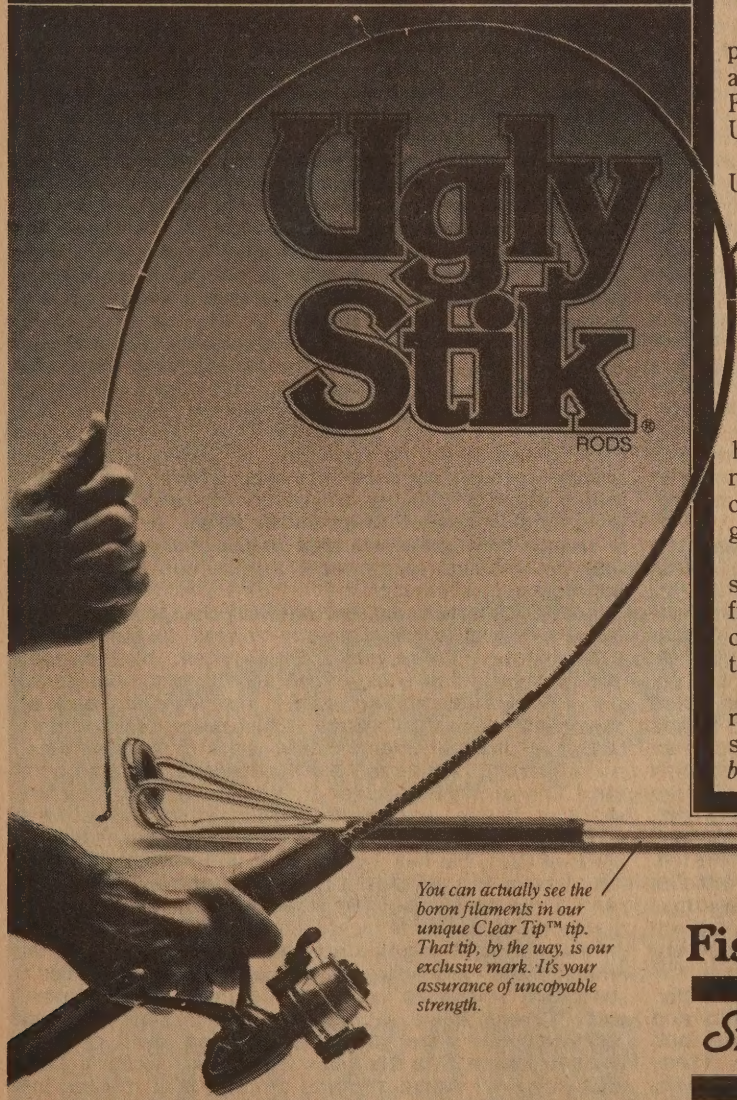

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FISH TALK
with William A. Muller

DIFFERENT BAITS FOR 1980

MILD WINTER! It is impossible to predict whether or not the entire winter will be as mild as December and most of January, but if it is it would seem very likely that an altered pattern of water temperature changes will have an impact on migrations, spawning, plankton blooms, and success of the year class of 1980. Regrettably, my crystal ball is a little foggy about weather for February and March, but even if these months promise the full ravages of Old Man Winter's anger, there most surely will be alterations due to the mild beginning.

HOW MILD HAS IT BEEN? Perhaps the most accurate assessment can be made with the help of the heating engineer's degree day system. A degree day is a measure of how cold, or warm, it is and, therefore, how much money must be spent to heat a home or a business. There are some problems with the system. Wind, for example. A 20° day with strong winds will require more fuel than a calm day at 20° F. Likewise, sunshine has its effect. A bright sun heats the outside of a building and the radiant energy also pours through windows, and then strikes solid objects converting the radiant energy into sensible heat (sensible heat is heat we can feel). Thus, sunny days require less fuel than cloudy days with the same temperatures. The oceans are similar to giant heat reservoirs in that they absorb heat when the air is warmer than the water and they release heat when the air is cooler than the water. Winds affect the rate of heat loss from the oceans because strong winds increase both evaporation (cooling process) and the heat transferred from water to air. Sunshine retards heat loss and can add heat while cloud cover reduces incident radiation.

DEGREE DAYS 1979-80. Thus, we can use the concept of degree days to gain a handle on the heating and cooling patterns in our coastal ocean since many of the same factors that increase or decrease fuel consumption in a building also effect the way oceans gain and lose heat. The "normal" rate of accumulation of degree days is based upon records kept by the Weather Bureau for about the last one hundred years and is calculated by determining the highest and lowest temperature for a twenty-four hour period and then averaging these numbers. Therefore, if the high temperature for the day is 60° F. and the low is 40°, the average will be 50°. The heating engineer says that above an average of 65° it isn't necessary to use your heating unit. There are some obvious problems with this assumption since some people may be cold with an average temperature of 65°. Also, this system assumes that the high will occur during the day when people are awake, and the low will occur at night when people are asleep. Most of the time that works out, but sometimes it will be warmer in the night than during the day, depending upon the movements of weather fronts and pressure systems. There are also the factors of sun and clouds, wind and calm, as we mentioned above. These factors also affect how comfortable we are. However, generally the system works.

BACK TO OUR EXAMPLE! We were discussing a day with an average temperature of 50°. The heating engineer subtracts fifty from sixty-five and arrives at fifteen. Thus, this day is said to have fifteen degree days. Minimum average temperature not requiring heat, minus average temperature for the day equals number of degree days. These fifteen degree days will be added to the total accumulated to that date for the year so that a running total is achieved.

NORMAL. The last hundred years of records from the Weather Bureau for our area suggests that by mid-January there should be about 2100 degree days. Up to this point in the winter of 1979-80, we have totalled about 1800 degree days, or 300 less than normal. Therefore, we are milder by 300 degree days. Since we were closer to normal for October and November, it means that most of the "milder" has been in December and early January.

EFFECTS ON MIGRATION PATTERNS! The mild heating season has already been responsible for a later than usual fall migration for many species. Bass, blues, and weaks were still being located fairly close to home into early December. Since the sea water has not cooled as fast as it had in past years, this will affect how far south some species will migrate, how fast they will migrate and, for those that migrate offshore, how far they will go out and how soon they will come back in. There will undoubtedly be some effects, but how much no one can say for sure. If the present trend continues through the winter, clearly many species will make early arrivals. This still leaves the matters of spawning success and distribution up in the air and unfortunately, we simply do not understand these things well enough to know exactly how they will change. Things could get better or they could get worse. More likely, some species will have an advantage while others will be negatively affected.

1970s WERE COLD! Incidentally, the 1970s were below normal years—temperature-wise. In the winter of 1975-76, ice covered large areas of Long Island Sound and the bays were solid. There's been none of that this year. Again, I point out that even if it gets cold from here on, the mild early winter has **already** caused some changes. The trick is to know what those changes are. In that respect, it is like reading a mystery novel. You can't be certain of who the killer is until you read the entire book, but it is sure fun getting your adrenalin going in anticipation of those final few pages. Similarly, we read this in winter and get that itchy feeling for the spring to start so that we can see what happened to our favorite species during the winter. If the changes in the weather patterns are small and short-lived, it isn't likely that noticeable changes will occur. However, if milder temperatures persist for an entire winter, or better two or three, then we will be able to see changes. It takes time to produce large-scale alterations in existing patterns.

BAITFISH! Perhaps the biggest changes, and the changes that are most directly related to our fishing success, will be changes in baitfish: abundance, distribution, and diversity. I can vividly remember going down to the beach to fish early in the year, way back at the beginning of this decade. It had been a cold winter: day after day with highs in the teens to mid-twenties, and nights that witnessed the thermometer arguing with zero! The spring was cooler than usual too, but now the air was finally warm enough to tolerate a night's exposure. I met a friend that night—an old-timer by the name of Curt. He has moved away and, in fact, I regret that I have lost contact with him. However, Curt had been knocking around the beach for a lot of years and during those years, he picked up a lot of savvy. Anyway, on that particular night, Curt and I exchanged the usual amenities that are typical of two beach rats who haven't seen each other in a bunch of months. Although there was a breeze at the outset, the night became still and suddenly there were sand eels scurrying about all over the beach zone. The sand eels were upset because there were bass and weaks charging through their ranks. This was the first big showing of sand eels in the Sound in this decade!

MEANINGFUL CHATTER! "How about that!" I said. "Yes," said Curt, "I told my wife that there would be big schools of sand eels this spring after all that cold and ice last winter." Curt wasn't presenting the thesis of a scientist fresh from a computer data bank, but he

was relating the conclusion that decades of fishing experience had taught him. Intrinsically, he knew that the winters had been colder and that the sand eels are more abundant when the winters are colder because they prefer colder water than some other baitfish. And so it has happened that colder winters brought about an increase in the amounts of sand eels and reductions in small bunker that thrive at slightly higher temperatures. Now, if we return to a series of mild winters, or if this one winter is milder, perhaps there will be fewer sand eels and more bunker. Although sand eels can be the reason for some hot action in the spring and then again in the fall, this species is noticeable by its absence during the long stretch from mid-July to mid-October. Not so for the bunker young of the year. These fish get to be about the size of a quarter by late August and begin to migrate out of the bays and harbors in early September. The migration can be long and steady and predators like bass and blues will chase them hither and yon until the water temperatures finally fall so low that they leave. If the fall is mild, the final migration can be as late as mid or even late November. To me, young bunker are the best kind of baitfish to have around. The fish (predators) are more aggressive and they aren't as hard to fool with artificials.

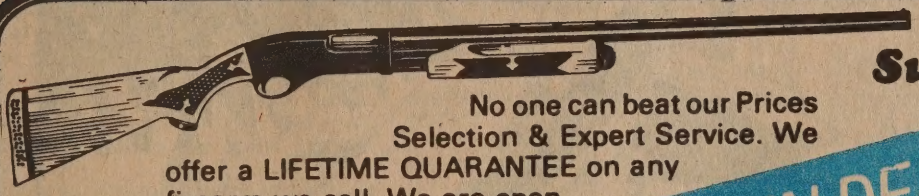
HOW ABOUT THE BIG BOYS? If milder temperatures affect baitfish species, then they must surely affect predators, too. Will weaks and other species spawn as successfully as they have in recent years? Will the big blues come into our waters the way they have in the last decade? Will bass spawn more successfully? Will the fishing be better or worse? These are hard questions, but we can be sure that warmer water temperatures will produce a variety of changes in our fishing scene—but then that's what makes the sport so great. As the abundance of various species of bait and predators fluctuates, techniques come and go too, and the smart fisherman has to stay on his or her toes lest the changes leave them behind in a cloud of ignorance. Some day scientists will have these answers for us so that it may someday be possible to issue very accurate fishing forecasts based upon weather patterns, environmental changes, and precise understandings of natural cycles. Some may argue that such accurate forecasts would be a good thing—but I'm not so sure. Suppose you woke up one morning and tuned in your favorite fishing forecast station. "Today will be a good fishing day with blues available at Jones Inlet and near the light at Montauk. Tomorrow the fishing will be poor and only small catches of porgy can be expected." If your fishing day was the "tomorrow" mentioned in the forecast, you don't have much to look forward to. I don't know—I enjoy the hunt as much as the success. The anticipation of not knowing what will happen and then testing your own hypotheses is too exciting to give up in exchange for a few more successful days. People may change their plans the way they do to make up for deficiencies in the weather only to find out that the weatherman was wrong—or in this case, the fishing forecaster—and that a sudden atmospheric change caused a reversal and the fishing was poor today and great tomorrow.

MILD? SO WHAT! Maybe that's your attitude then. You don't care whether it is mild or cold because what is poison to one species will enhance another, and in the end there will be some kind of fishing. Perhaps all that matters is to do everything we can to protect our species and then let nature play her hand!

★COMING SOON★

The Case for a Saltwater License

Don't miss this series of articles starting in the March 6 issue of L.I.F. which will be on a topic that concerns all sportfishermen—the continuing controversy over the implementation of a saltwater license. Don't miss it!



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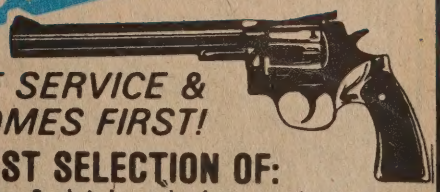

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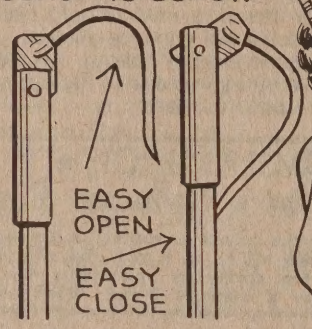

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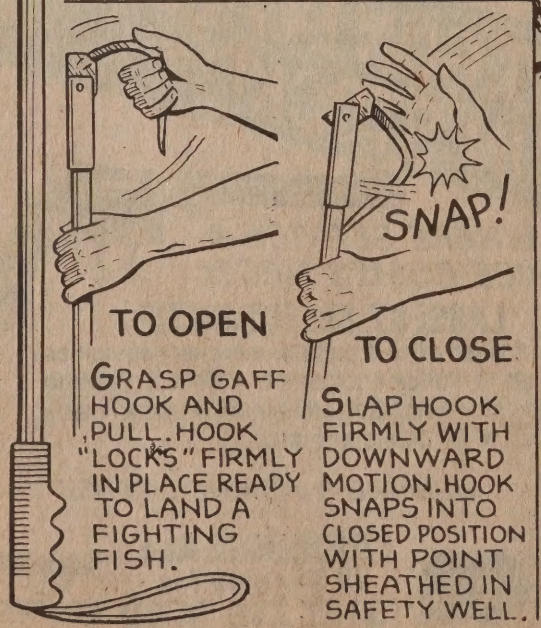

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TACKLE DOCTOR

Questions answered by
Doc Lee Niboraes
of the Mayco Clinic

Please find enclosed a copy of pages from a book that shows the "Turtle Knot," a knot which you advised a reader did not even exist. Whether this knot is actually a turle knot or a turtle knot, I can't say, but there is a book that does show a "Turtle Knot."

W. Barnes, Washington, D.C.

We received several letters about the fictitious turtle knot. We, too, have seen several books that list a turtle knot, but the knot actually diagrammed is more commonly known as the Turle Knot. Perhaps book editors who aren't fishermen let the turtle slip through, but the true—or most commonly used name for the knot, which is used to attach flies to a leader—is a Turle Knot, without the extra letter "t."

*****

My question may be classified as rod UNbuilding. How can I remove a reel seat glued in place with epoxy and how can I remove the thread wraps also covered with an epoxy finish? J. Rogers, Cincinnati.

Remove the reel seat by applying heat from a propane torch. Ideally you want to heat the reel seat only to the point where the glue underneath it will break down—not to get so hot that it glows red. Too much heat will destroy the blank beneath the seat.

Slowly rotate the blank to build up a steady application of heat. Use a rag to twist the seat free and to slide it off.

The wraps are easily removed by slicing them along the guide foot and peeling away from the guide. After the guide is removed, find the tag end of the wraps and spin the rod as you pull on the thread. It will easily unravel. A light sanding will remove excess epoxy residue.

If the blank is stained, chipped or faded spray with a coating of epoxy spray paint like the type used to apply new finishes to refrigerators, sold in hardware stores, or a boating epoxy paint used for repainting hulls. Either paint will provide a durable finish and make the rod look like brand new.

*****

Would you recommend a blank for a friend and I to use for whiting and ling in the winter and then for bluefish during the summer. It can be graphite and we'd like to go as light as possible. Can we put spinning guides on it and use it as both a spinning rod and a conventional rod?

Brother Joe Griffin, Jersey City.

There have been several stories in The Fisherman about a terrific blank that should be perfect for the fishing you do. It is the Lamiglass GBT 84 1M or the Loomis GLB 754. Both rods are similar and will perform well for the fishing you do.

Don't worry about using the spinning guides, because they will work well with both conventional reels and spinning. It may look odd when the conventional reel is mounted on the rod, but it will fish okay.

*****

I would like to know how I can make a four dropper loop rig and get the four loops evenly spaced. Is there any jig that I can build to accomplish this? It would sure help my sanity.J. Pakovics, Sr., Eliz., NJ.

I put marks on the edge of my work bench as a guide for tying up the various rigs I use during the year. I lay the leader next to the marks and one by one, tie the droppers. They do not come out perfectly even, but are so close to being evenly spaced that you'd have to measure them to find the difference. You can also use the little plastic 'Quick, Rigs" sold in tackle shops to build your rigs. They may look small, but they are strong and easily moved if the spacing isn't perfect.

Although even spacing between the leaders is important, it is not too critical to catching fish. The most important factor is keeping the leaders at a 90° angle away from the main leader so the hooks don't tangle.

*****

How can I remove the green salt build-up on the reel frame and bracing posts on my Penn Squidder? The reel has been washed after every trip, yet still corroded because of bad chromed parts. S. Jacobs, Salisbury, Md.

I usually disassemble my Penns, removing the posts and frame from the reel. Clean the parts with a grease solvent like Acetone, gasoline, benzene (read the solvent instructions carefully and do not use on plastic parts) and scrub with a piece of steel wool. The corrosion should come right off. When reassembling the posts, put a dab of grease in each screw hole to prevent corrosion on the threads. A coating of WD-40 or CRC completes the job.

The Penn parts are not badly chromed; in fact, are top quality parts. Simply washing the reel in water does not neutralize the corrosive action of the salt chemicals. Spray the reel frequently during the fishing season with WD-40 or CRC to be sure no corrosion takes place.

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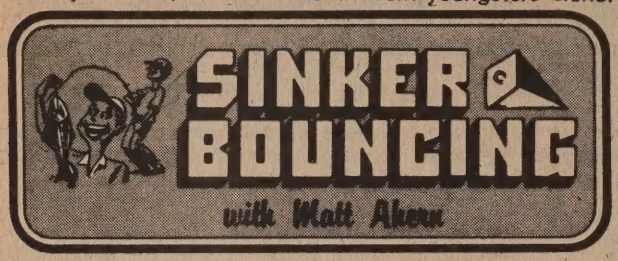
I am not sure if you fellows will consider this article a "How To," but I'm going to give it a whirl, anyway. Actually, though, this bit of writing is directed to the junior fishermen in our midst—those kids who have already done a little fishing, and to those who have yet to do so. And lest you think there aren't enough of these to warrant a special column, you should read some of my daily mail. I can count on at least twenty to thirty letters a month from youngsters alone.



On Becoming A Fisherman

Questions. Questions. Questions. And more questions—ranging from riggings and hooks, to how did I catch my first fish, where did I catch my first weakfish, fluke, blackfish, or cod, and even how to go about landing a job as a party boat mate. Just about any question pertaining to fishing that you can imagine. Most aren't difficult to answer, for many are basic. But when you receive a heart-wrencher as I did last fall from a youngster dying to go fishing, but whose parents won't allow him to do so, and who then asks me what he can do about it—how do you answer that? That's when I have a faint desire to be elsewhere. But answer those letters I do to the best of my ability. So, as I said before, this column is for the kids; therefore, if you do not wish to run the risk of perhaps being bored stiff reading what you consider "old hat," now's the time to turn the page.

First of all, kids, let me say this: consider yourselves lucky. Of the sports you could have selected, you have selected the best. Perhaps "selected" isn't the ideal word to use, for I don't believe any fisherman really selects the sport—the sport selects him. He—or she—is drawn to it as the bee is drawn to the brightest flower in the garden.

What that something is, I'm unable to say; but I am certain that that something exists, for it seems all fishermen are cut from the same cloth. Surely, we are all tarred with the same brush Not everyone is attracted to our sport, of course, bu those who are and who dearly love the fishing game are individuals who live the good life. This I do know.

And as fishermen, we all have our trials and tribulations when we undertake to learn the game. There are absolutely no short cuts. And this is good. I have been dunking bait many years and I still suffer the pangs of disappointment, those trials and tribulations, plus all those assorted problems fishermen are heir to. But were you to ask if—by some feat of magic, let's say—I could forever rid myself of these, my answer would be a definite no. I believe that to do so would lessen my interest in fishing. I might even quit.

Does that surprise you? It shouldn't. Fishermen thrive on disappointment. They won't admit it, but they do. It is the unknown, the wondering, and the hoping that puts zest into our sport. It is just you and me against a dark, mysterious world. And no amount of coaxing on our part can sway the simple judgement of a fish as to the worth of a worm. It is what sets each fishing adventure apart from those that have gone before that intrigues us. No two fishing trips are ever alike.

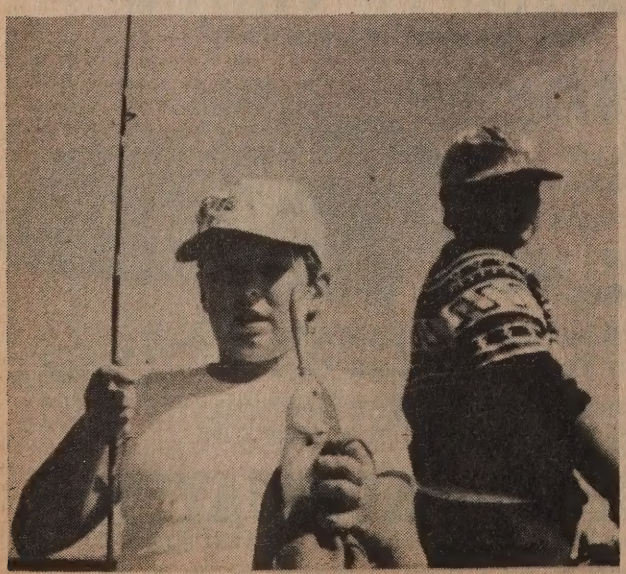
And what of the many doubts that plague every fisherman? Those questions which even acknowledged master anglers cannot answer with any degree of certainty? Such as: will the weather hold? And if it doesn't, will the fish still bite? Will those fish accept my bait? Should I try the new place I read about, or should I stick with the old? What will happen should I use a smaller or larger hook than recommended? Will I increase my catch if I alter my rigging? And on and on.

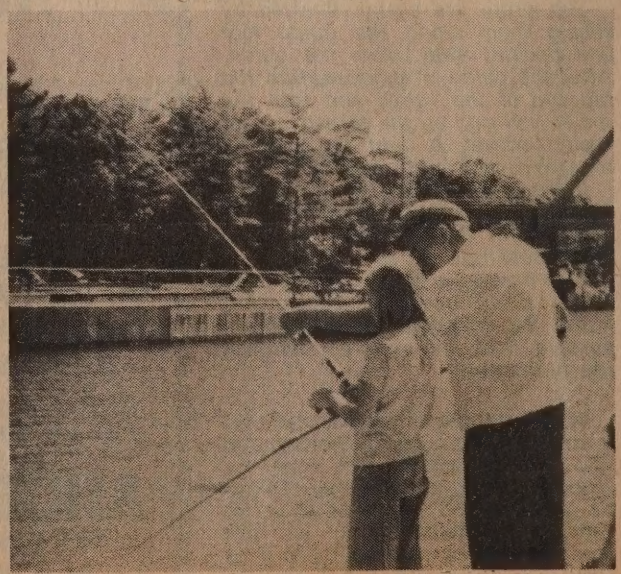
These are only a few of the nagging questions fishermen have asked themselves since the first hairy caveman attempted to lure a fish to his baited gorge. You, too, will ask them—and you will never cease asking them—plus scores more which arise with each new occasion. If such questions do not occur to you naturally, take my advice and devote your time to another sport.

Rarely, if ever, will you find the precise answers you need in books or articles on fishing. Not that these don't have value, they certainly do; but the answers you seek at any given moment can be found only by pitting meager knowledge against Nature's dark, mysterious world. There is no other way.

And when those questions seem answered to your satisfaction, things are likely to change in such a manner that new questions and new answers become necessary. You will find this happening over and over again. And you will learn to live with it.

You can also count on one or two questions you didn't even expect until they were upon you, such as:





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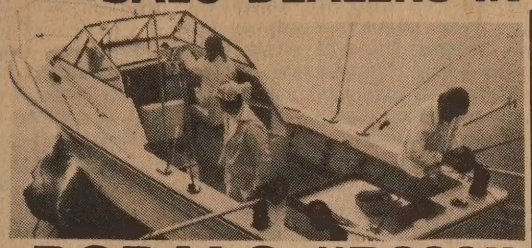

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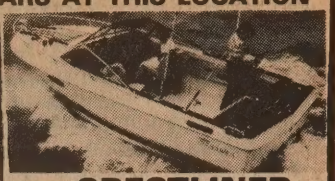

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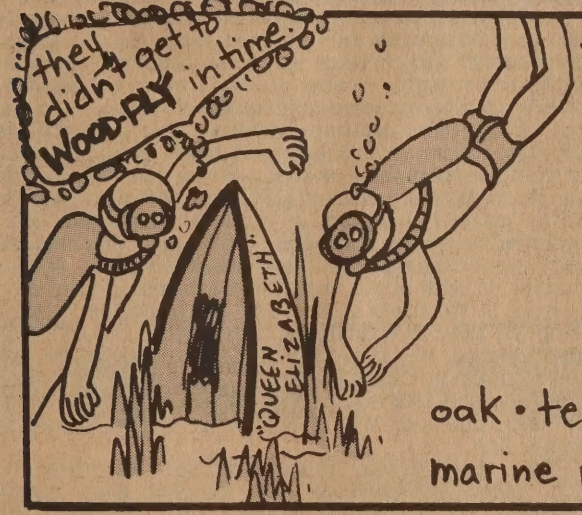

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will the good luck I've had on this trip be duplicated next time out? Can I avoid a repetition of a poor fishing day? There is never an end to such questions, nor will there ever be, for this is the lure of fishing. This is the unknown quantity that makes fishing the greatest sport in the world.

Therefore, it all boils down to this: true fishermen are never discouraged by poor results. Disappointed, yes; but discouraged, never. The ever-hopeful fisherman believes in his heart that next week will be better; and if it isn't, there's always the hope that it will be the time after that. Truly, the exquisite thrill of hope springs eternally from the breast of dedicated fishermen.

Okay, son, now you know what you're up against when you take up a rod and reel and expect to put fish in your bucket. Learning how to catch fish isn't easy—yet it isn't difficult. I admit, though, that I've purposely made it to appear more difficult than it is. I did this so that you will understand from the very beginning that the sport of fishing isn't for the faint of heart. It is made to appear as though no intelligence is needed only by those who should know better. All any well-informed fishing scribe can do is point the way, with the hope that should you put his suggestions to use, they will work to your advantage.

When I first became interested in fishing, I was knee-high to a grasshopper. In those days there was no help for kids like me. At the time, there was nowhere I could go for answers to those many questions which would have certainly smoothed my way. There were no saltwater fishing magazines such as The Fisherman. If there were books on the subject in public libraries, I was unaware of them. And you better believe I checked.

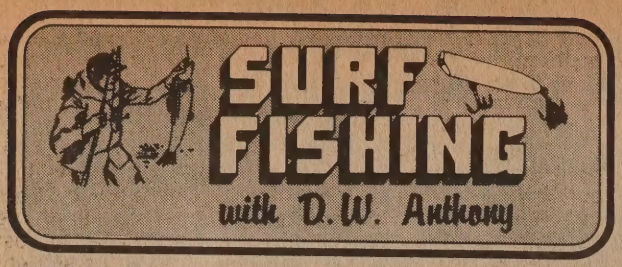
But this sad state of affairs is long gone. Today, the beginning fisherman has all the information he could possibly desire at his beck and call. All he need do is make his wants known. There isn't a public library I've visited on Long Island that hasn't shelves devoted to every aspect of the fishing game. Couple these with the many libraries available to everyone elsewhere and I see no reason why local beginning fishermen need start out cold turkey.

Which brings me to this: if your interest is bottom fishing, and you can't find the answers to some of your questions, perhaps I can help you. Drop me a line, explain the difficulty you're having and I'll try my best to give you the answers you need. I'm glad to do this because I well remember how it was when I was a youngster, all eager to get out there and catch fish, and with nowhere to seek advice.

And that's that for now, son; but let me leave you with this: be of good cheer. You've picked a good sport. You are the luckiest of the lucky.

And for you fellows who have continued to read to this point, even though I cautioned you about the possibility of becoming bored, let me ask this. Have you ever thought about taking a kid fishing with you? Think about it this winter and when spring rolls around, take a kid along on one of your flounder trips. These youngsters aren't difficult to find: they're all around you.

I know, because I've got the letters to prove it.



EXERCISES BEFORE YOU START THE SEASON

When Doc Muller first gave me this assignment it seemed to me that I might have a lot of trouble writing about it since, I must confess, I have not been careful about staying in shape. He told me that if I wanted to be a professional writer that I had to learn to do research. He was right! So I began my research and the more I learned about exercise, the more I realized that I had been missing the boat. Exercise would clearly not only make me feel better, but could make those first few trips to the beach less agonizing and increase my stamina for the entire long season.

At this time, I have entered into a regular exercise program and I have lost a few pounds, feel better, and have more energy. I'm hooked! Like so many other Americans, the value of exercise has suddenly dawned on me even though the need was there all along. I don't want to be Mr. Universe, mind you, but I do want to shape up so that I can "ship out" with more confidence and vigor. Anyway, here's what I have learned.

Sit-ups! One of the most important exercises we can do are sit-ups. They flatten the stomach, help firm up abdominal muscles to hold organs more securely in their proper place, improve posture, and increase cardio-vascular efficiency. Many a hard-working surf fisherman has a bad back. The degree of severity of the problem varies a lot from person to person, but the repetitive power casting, year after year, the unnatural tendency to stand for long periods in one position with the weight of the rod and reel in front of you—as well as the resistance of the lure—causes the back to try to compensate and for back muscles to eventually begin to cramp. When the back muscles cramp, the vertebrae may be pulled out of position, which will then cause persistent muscle spasms which will pull the vertebrae out, etc., etc., etc. The problem becomes more acute if sagging abdominal muscles exist, encouraging poor posture which puts more stress on the lower back. Sit-ups will help to correct the situation; and although it is doubtful that sit-ups will eliminate lower back problems, regular abdominal exercises could improve your condition greatly. Here's how to do the exercise. Sit on a soft floor. A thick rug is good, but the addition of a mat is better to avoid putting pressure on your "tail" bone. Bend your legs at the knees so that the tops of your knees are about level with your belly button. Next, either place the palms of your hands on the sides of your face or cross your arms on your chest. DO NOT FOLD YOUR HANDS BEHIND YOUR NECK. Hands behind your neck will pull on neck vertebrae and could make lower back problems worse or create new neck problems. Do the sit-ups slowly since the idea is to pull yourself up with your abdominal muscles. Do not jerk yourself up suddenly since this could injure lower back muscles or tender abdominal muscles. Begin your exercise program slowly. Perhaps you will only be able to do five or ten sit-ups comfortably at first. Be patient and do not push yourself. Repeat those five to ten sit-ups everyday or every other day and add one, two, or three after each week. Do not do your sit-ups if you experience discomfort either in your lower back or in your abdomen. At the end of a year, you should be doing forty to fifty sit-ups rather easily and you'll be able to maintain a firm, well-toned abdomen easily.

Shrugs. This is another good exercise for those with lower back problems because this exercise will strengthen upper back muscles, thus relieving strain on lower back muscles. This exercise will also improve casting stamina by strengthening back and shoulder muscles. Hold a weight in each hand. The size of the weight will vary with your condition, strength, size, and weight. Most of us should be able to handle twenty pounds in each hand as a start, but some may easily hold forty to forty-five pounds in each hand. In this exercise your arms must remain straight—do not bend the elbows. Now, raise your shoulders, in much the same way as if you were making a shrug, and then rotate your shoulders to the rear, and then straight down. Repeat about ten times. You will probably feel the strain the first few times you do the exercise and the location of the aches will identify those muscles being acted upon. Again, do not force yourself. Start easy and as time goes on, add a little weight at regular intervals.

Push-ups! Push-ups are one of those all-around great exercises like swimming and chin-ups. However, many of us have trouble with the latter two exercises lacking a pool and a chinning bar. It is very important to do push-ups correctly since poor form can almost negate any possible positive effects. Your body should be straight to the floor; both knees and back straight. Your head should be level with your backbone. Your hands should be about eighteen to twenty inches apart with fingers pointing away from you in front. Lower yourself to the floor slowly and when your nose touches, begin to raise your body while keeping it straight. Exhale as you raise yourself and continue the upward motion until your elbows are straight. Repeat as many times as possible. Some of us may only be able to do a few push-ups at first; but others will do twenty, thirty, or more push-ups. Again, add one or two each week until you are doing a reasonable number. Some folks like to do two, three, or more sets of push-ups and thus may do one to several hundred a day—although this isn't necessary by any means to stay in shape. You'll feel the strain in your pectoral muscles (chest muscles), triceps (muscles on back of the upper arms), biceps (muscles on the front of the upper arms), and the trapezius muscles (along the sides of your upper back). Other shoulder and chest muscles will also benefit. Push-ups will improve your stamina in casting, reduce fatigue when fighting large fish, and increase casting distance. As with other exercises, push-ups will also improve overall condition and stamina.

Deep knee bends. Since most surf fishermen on Long Island are walkers and because even buggy fishermen do a lot of walking and standing, the condition of the legs is very important. Probably the best way to establish good condition in the legs is jogging. However, jogging isn't for everybody. For some it could be unhealthy and recent research suggesting that running can foster the development of a variety of health problems may cause many people to rethink the merits of jogging. However, there are other exercises that can be used instead of running. Deep knee bends are one of these exercises. However, as with the other exercises we have mentioned, begin slowly; do the exercises carefully, and build up to a reasonable number of repetitions slowly. If you are out of condition or have arthritis, then be extra careful of this exercise. In fact, if you have or may have any health problem, it would be wise to consult your physician before entering into any exercise program. It is important to keep your back straight when doing deep knee bends. Allow your heels to lift up as you bend your knees. Lower yourself slowly and also raise your body slowly. If you feel anything unusual—stop! You may want to keep a chair back or stool in front of you which may help you to steady yourself and allow a little boost with your arms if you are out of condition.

Walking! Walking is a great all-around exercise. It is good for your heart, lungs, legs and body. It is also good for your frame of mind. If you do not like to jog and find deep knee bends to be sheer torture, then a brisk walk three or four times a week can help promote good leg conditioning in winter when we tend to sit too much and eat too much. Walk at a brisk pace with your

head up and with good posture. If you are out of shape, you may have to start slowly, but with any kind of decent state of conditioning you should be able to walk a mile right at the start and build up to several miles rather quickly. Again, if you have any doubts, check with your physician before you begin to exercise.

Bicycle riding. This is another great all-around exercise. Obviously, bike riding will improve leg conditioning, but it also is great cardiovascular exercise. You can ride a free-moving bike or one of those stationary bicycles that can be used indoors. You may have to start out with a short ride, but you should be able to build up to several miles within one or two months. If you ride your bike—or for that matter do any exercise outside in cold weather—be sure to cover your mouth with something that you can breathe through, but which will help cut the biting effects of the cold. Extremely cold air can actually "burn" your upper respiratory tubes. Actually what happens is that the extremely cold and dry air saps away much of the moisture that coats your respiratory tract, leaving the delicate tissues exposed.

Jogging. If you plan to run, consult your physician first. If he agrees that you can do some running ask him to help you set up a program that will allow you to start slowly and progress well. If you are running in order to improve your endurance and stamina it will not be necessary to run many miles. You may begin by running a block and then walking a block and after several months you may be able to run a mile or so.That's plenty if you do it several times per week and combine it with a good diet and other exercises. Run slowly. Don't try to set any speed records. The stress isn't good for you and it isn't necessary. All you need is a slow trot. Be patient with your progress. If you have a cold or other illness, then do not run. If you feel any pain or discomfort in any part of your legs and feet, do not run. Invest in a good pair of running shoes since poor shoes contribute to the development of many jogging-related problems. Dress properly when you run. If you over-dress, you may overheat and if you are not covered with at least a minimum of clothing, you may suffer exposure and become ill.

There are other exercises that you can do, too, such as rowing a boat or various manipulations of weights, but those exercises described above will help you to get in shape for the upcoming season and stay in shape during the off season. It isn't a good idea to just exercise for several weeks each year prior to the season. It is far better to get into the habit of exercising regularly. You'll need some motivation since we all get tired after a hard day of work and exercise is basically boring, but hang in there and you'll enjoy the benefits on the beach. When others are pooped you'll still have a reserve of energy. This is often especially important after a long night of fighting fish when you then are faced with the sometimes long walk back to the vehicle. If you are carrying fish, then your task will be even more difficult. Try to interest your spouse in the exercise, or a friend. This way, the tedious parts will be broken by conversation and encouragement and when one of you would tend to skip the session, the other person may push the lazy one to exercise. You don't have to exercise for hours on end either. A half-hour to an hour, three or four times per week will provide much benefit.

Funny thing about exercise is that you may begin your session with a feeling of great fatigue, but many times you'll feel less tired after you are done. Exercise also tends to supress appetite—not the real kind, but the nibbles-type. Good luck and I'll see you on the beach.

EDITOR'S NOTE: *For the past decade, I have been trying to stick to a regular regime of exercises in the*

(Continued on page 66.)

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One of the great pleasures of fishing certainly lies in acquiring a varied and almost pretentious array of tackle. Storing such a collection of lures, terminal tackle, spare parts, and whatever else makes up your arsenal, can test the patience and ingenuity of the most

Thoughts On Tackle Storage

organized among us. Anyone would have to agree, though, that there are many more options open to us now than back when everything ended up in a cigar box. It is also true, however, that the modern day Izaak Walton has more "junk" to store now than anyone ever had in the good old days.

With the price of tackle what it is today, good, protective storage for gear is both prudent and economical. Very few among us can afford to allow tackle to rust away in the bottom of a soggy tackle box. Rendered useless after just one trip to the briny. Whether you carry your gear around in a tackle box, a milk crate or a bucket, you owe it to yourself to organize and protect your tackle.

Every angler has their own method or system of storing certain essential items. Small items such as snaps and swivels demand special attention. They should be organized according to size. Quite a few containers lend themselves to storing these items neatly and efficiently. Personally, I prefer a small but rugged, plastic box. The one I use is manufactured by Plano and contains seven individual compartments which allow for convenient stowage of a good size collection of snaps and swivels. It measures 6½" by 3¾" by 1" deep. Having your entire stock under one roof, a transparent one at that, permits you to keep a good check on your inventory.

If your supply consists of less significant numbers, plastic 35mm film containers, labeled on the outside, will probably fill your needs. They provide dry, compact and unbreakable storage.

Hooks are another small but important piece of equipment. They should be stored according to size and style. Unsnelled hooks can be kept in compartmented plastic boxes while the best bet for those with snells remains the store bought holders designed for such hooks. Several types are available and all serve their purpose well.

Heavier items such as lures and sinkers punish the containers they are kept in. While plastic boxes are great for lightweight items such as snaps, swivels, hooks, and split rings, I have never had them last very long when packed with the likes of diamond jigs and drails.

Numerous articles have been written on the subject of improvising for storage of such equipment. The basic theme usually being how to go about it with little or no cash outlay.

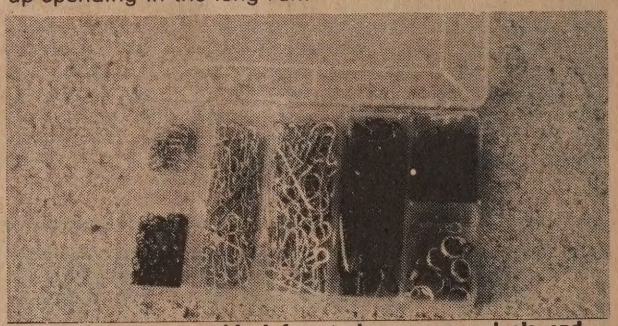
A couple of seasons back, I learned that by spending a few bucks initially, I could have containers that were guaranteed to last a life time, were air-tight, and come in shapes and sizes to fit every need. I had discovered that great American institution known as Tupperware. Now I am not a Tupperware salesman nor do I own stock in the company, but you simply cannot beat the stuff! It keeps things dry as a bone. You can step on it, bounce it, or throw it. It even floats! Next time the wife says that she is off to a Tupperware party, pay attention!

Among their selection are containers suited to storing spare reels, extra spools, line, lures, skin plugs, rigged eels, chum, bait, first aid kit, tools, leaders, hooks, sinkers, drails and just about anything else that you can think of. It's a super product that is well worth spending a few bucks on.

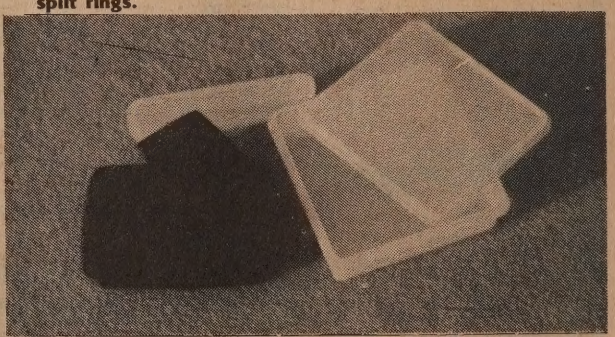
One item, listed in their catalog as the "Stow and Go," has virtually eliminated the need for me to carry a regular size tackle box on many of my fishing trips. One of these 9"x6½"x2½" deep containers is used to store everything I need for light tackle outings on Great South Bay. Bucktails, Touts, jelly worms, Rebels, small popping plugs, swivels, leaders, hook hone, thermometer, and nail clipper all fit snugly into the trayed and compartmented box. Another "Stow and Go" is used to store the equipment required for fluke, flounder, and blackfish outings. Check them out. I don't think that you will be disappointed.

With the emergence of jelly worms on the weakfish scene in recent years, anglers have been discovering that worms kept in plastic boxes suffer the effects of a chemical reaction and usually wind up as part of the box. "Worm-proof" boxes are available in many local tackle shops. You may have to look in the freshwater section to find them since jelly worms originated as a black bass lure. They cost anywhere from $2 to $4, but keep your "jellies" colorful and fishable.

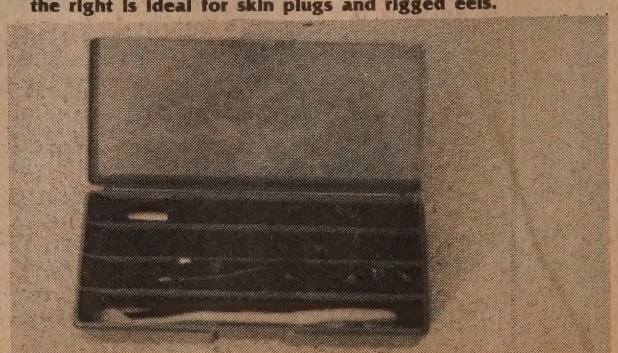
The best storage is not always the cheapest. By using a little bit of foresight, you may find that spending a few bucks now is a lot cheaper than what you will end up spending in the long run.



Plastic boxes are ideal for storing snaps, swivels and split rings.



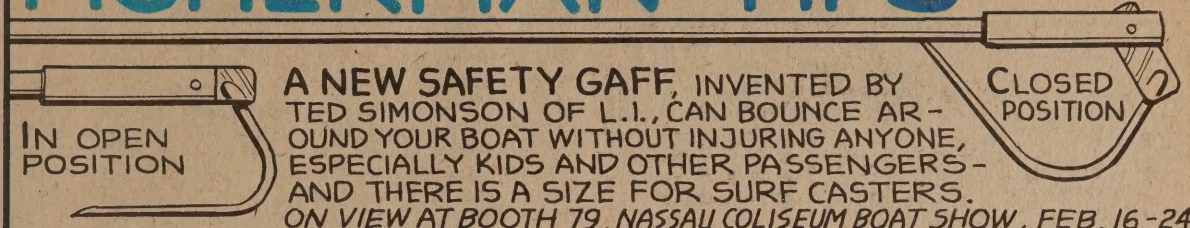
Tupperware! On the left is the "Stow And Go." Box on the right is ideal for skin plugs and rigged eels.



This box is designed specifically for rubber worms.

FISHERMAN TIPS

BY FRED GUARDINEER



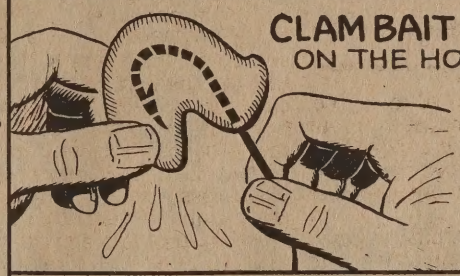
A NEW SAFETY GAFF, INVENTED BY TED SIMONSON OF L.I., CAN BOUNCE AROUND YOUR BOAT WITHOUT INJURING ANYONE, ESPECIALLY KIDS AND OTHER PASSENGERS - AND THERE IS A SIZE FOR SURF CASTERS. *ON VIEW AT BOOTH 79, NASSAU COLISEUM BOAT SHOW, FEB. 16-24.*

IF YOUR SPINNING LINE DOESN'T COME OFF THE REEL PROPERLY, OR CAUSES TANGLES, EITHER THE SPOOL HAS TOO MUCH OR TOO LITTLE LINE.

SPOOL OVERFILLED WILL CAUSE EXTRA LOOPS TO FOLLOW THE LINE AND JAM GUIDES OR TANGLE AT REEL.

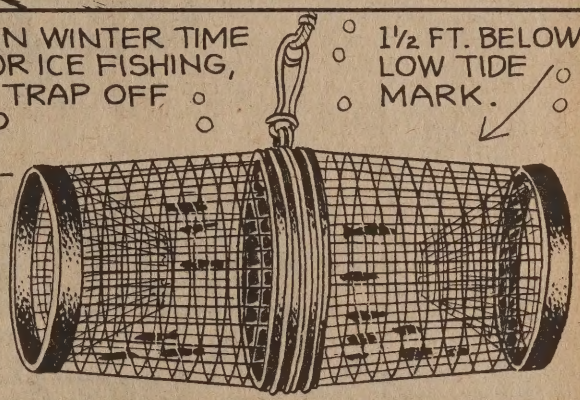
SPOOL UNDERFILLED WILL CAUSE DRAG AND PREVENT LONG CASTS.

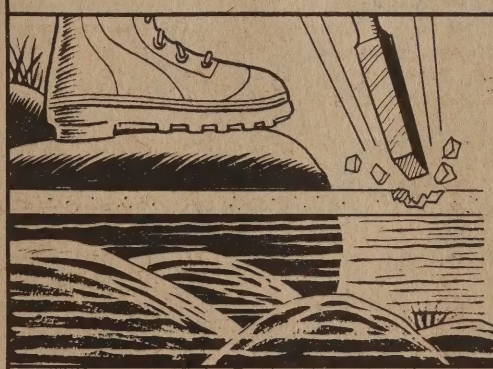
SPOOL CORRECTLY FILLED SHOULD BE ABOUT 1/4 INCH FROM THE EDGE OF THE LIPS.



CLAM BAIT FOR COD SHOULD BE PLACED ON THE HOOK LIKE A WORM WITH THE POINT BURIED, REPORTS A FISHERMAN ON A RECENT TRIP ABOARD A WELL-KNOWN L.I. PARTY BOAT WHERE THE UNHELPFUL MATES CAUGHT ALL THE FISH! THE MATES BAITED THEIR HOOKS AS SHOWN AND CAST FAR FROM THE BOAT.

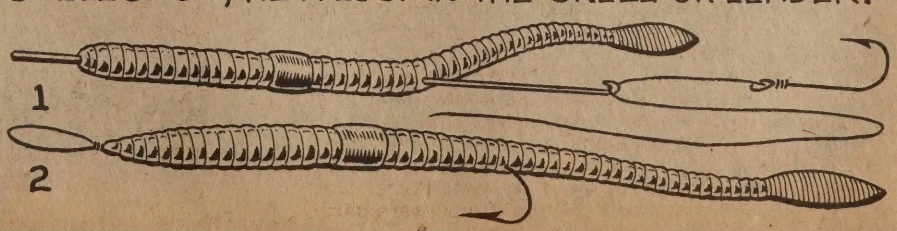
TO TRAP KILLIES IN WINTER TIME FOR WHITE PERCH OR ICE FISHING, HANG BAITED KILLY TRAP OFF DOCK OR BULKHEAD ABOUT 1½ FT. BELOW THE *LOW TIDE* LEVEL - AND KILLIES STAY ALIVE LONGER IN A PAIL WITHOUT WATER, SAY THE SECRETIVE WHITE PERCH CULTISTS ACTIVE THIS TIME OF YEAR.





HOW CAN YOU BE SURE THE ICE IS SAFE FOR FISHING? BEST WAY IS TO CHOP A HOLE OVER SHALLOW WATER AND NOTE ITS THICKNESS. AN INCH OF ICE IS NOT SAFE! TWO INCHES SUPPORTS TWO MEN AND FOUR INCHES OR MORE MEANS ALL'S WELL.

TO RIG PLASTIC WORMS FOR SPRING ACTION, SNELL HOOKS WITH BRAIDED NYLON LINE. PUSH A SMALL BARBED CROCHET NEEDLE INTO THE HEAD OF THE WORM AND OUT WHERE YOU WANT THE HOOK TO GO. DRAW THE SNELL BACK, TIE A LOOP IN THE SNELL OR LEADER.



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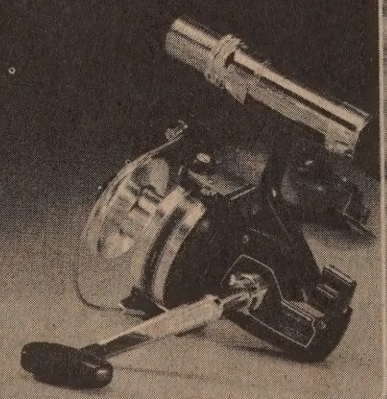

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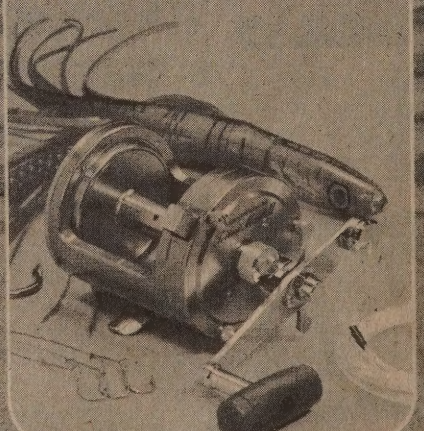

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COMFORT AFLOAT:

Selecting Foul Weather Gear

by Charlie Soares

Despite the rugged, macho image projected by many outdoorsmen, no one in their right mind wants to be uncomfortable no matter what their outdoor pursuit. Many a day's sport has been ruined by the elements. Dampness and rain may be great for spring flowers, but when it is running down my neck or creeping up my sleeves, then it's not my idea of a pleasurable experience. One of my saltier mentors used to scoff at foul weather gear, chiding that "God made us waterproof; no need to worry unless you start leaking through the skin."

Outdoor sports during less than ideal weather are sometimes necessary for those with limited time, but boating and fishing can still be enjoyable if you're properly dressed. Many of you have seen the rigs with thousands of dollars invested in electronics and a wet, sodden, irritable, misery-loves-company skipper who is cursing because his $12.99 plastic foul weather gear didn't keep out the rain or chill. **Price** should be the least important factor in your selection process.

Special needs and/or conditions are the deciding criteria for any sports enthusiast. After all...if it won't fit your purposes, it won't do you any good at all. I know a guy who can well afford **good** gear, yet he goes for the "cheapie" specials because he thinks he is economizing. He ends up purchasing at least three sets per year because the cheapies don't make it when he could have gotten by with one $50 set that would have gotten him through several seasons. You figure it out! When you take into consideration how many times you use your gear and how they can preserve your day afield or afloat...the more you use them...and the longer they last... the less expensive the better quality ones become.

A basic understanding of foul weather gear and keeping comfortable in messy weather is in order. Your foul weather gear is only the outer layer, used primarily for wind and rain protection. On several occasions (never **too** many!) I have made reference to dressing "in layers"—similar to a cross country skier or timberline lumberman—rather than using one or two heavy, bulky and restrictive and sometimes dangerous garments. As the day warms or improves, or as your activity dictates, you can peel off a layer of two, or three or four—so that you maintain a comfortable body temperature. It is always easier to take off and store excess clothing rather than not having enough.

These heavy duty bib front pants are into their fifth season, and are still in good condition. Welded seams, plastic buttons and heavy duty suspenders have stood the test of time. Cold damp mornings like this with the threat of heavy weather to come make good gear a worthwhile investment.

With the boating and fishing seasons being extended the way they have been in recent years, warmth is now almost as important as weatherproofing. Keeping warm **and** dry is not always as easy as it may seem. Sometimes the perspiration that accumulates under gear that does not breathe creates a cold and clammy chill that cannot be dissipated—likely to dampen your enjoyment as well as your enthusiasm. This is where the wicking effect in layering comes into play. Choose woolen garments for winter activity as they will retain heat even when wet. A woolen fabric will also wick outwards and carry the moisture away from the body, whereas a cotton fabric will wick inwards. Synthetics just lie there and don't do anything! Dead air trapped between layers of clothes will prove an efficient insulator. Vapor barrier garments are useful when a ten day gale is in effect...and you are forced out there despite your intelligence telling you to be at home with feet before the fire. At any rate, your choice of gear makes the difference between the comfort of warm and dry and the torment of cold and soggy—and it is applicable in summer or winter, fair or foul.

Plug casting in the rain, during the warmer months, uses a lot of energy. Your body pumps out excess amounts of perspiration which evaporates. In the colder months, working a heavy cod jig in deep water while you have your winter clothing on, causes the perspiration to be trapped against your skin, soaking through your undershirt; and as soon as you slow down or stop the activity, your body and the wet clothing cool down rapidly and make you uncomfortable.

Most foul weather gear is designed very poorly, in my estimation. Usually the only area that permits venting is the top of the jacket, which along with your chest and neck area have the greatest heat requirements. I have had my sailmaker friend cut and grommet the underarm area of my last set of gear and this greatly improved the venting capabilities and prevented all that heat loss.

At this point, I would like to add a few comments also on the selection of foul weather tops. For those using gear strictly on board a vessel—I would recommend highly that you get jackets with full front openings. Either those with the huge nylon zippers or the heavy duty plastic buttons and a large protector flap with Velcro tabs. These are far more

comfortable, safe, and will allow you to open up both the tops and the bottoms as you need to. **Most** importantly, they are quickly shed. If you are thrown off balance or fall over the side they are easy to pop out of. The popover type, which can be so restrictive, are nearly impossible to doff in the event of a spill. I speak from experience. My misadventures with this type of jacket chill me to the marrow. I have discussed this with many others as well and we agree that we would not use an over-the-head model for this very reason.

While on this tack, I should also mention that those high fashion, multi-color jackets with the terry cloth lining were quite popular awhile back, but I have had people aboard who became very uncomfortable once the terry cloth got wet—which happened even in damp or foggy weather. Like the faddish leather deck shoes, they are great and very fashionable on the dock or the dry decks of a luxury cruiser; but on a working deck or on a wet day, they are "all show, no go."

Good footgear deserves a mention, too, for it is little comfort if you are dry and warm from your nose to your ankles and your feet are cold and wet. I use a very good Topsider high deck-boot, with a good non-skid sole and an arch support. I buy them at least a half a size larger, which enables me to use a felt inner sole when the decks are cold and to get them off in a hurry when the need arises. I can also add a pair of heavy Norwegian woolen high socks over my regular ones when the winter weather calls for it. I won't go into undergarments, but if you are interested in excellent protection, find a knowledgeable clerk at a ski or hiking supply shop who can show you their line of lightweight but warm clothing. They won't be cheap, but in the long run they will be less expensive and serve you better than inferior goods. A word of caution. Do not get talked into down vests or garments for use on or near the water. They are not only expensive, but are next to worthless when wet. Woven fabrics are less bulky, will stay lightweight when damp and retain their shape and protective qualities much longer.

Peaked fishing caps are great for keeping the sun and rain off your nose and out of your eyes, but in cold weather you can't beat a good knitted woolen watch cap. For fishing, I prefer the bibbed pants with heavy "well made" suspenders, for they offer that extra warmth in the chest area. I don't like the cinched in feeling of the tight waistbands on the regular models.

About the best bet for the serious fisherman who uses his gear all year long is the commercial brand **Helly Hanson.** I prefer to use the international orange, as it doubles for use in the deer season. The black appears to be a bit heavier and in the cold weather it is very supple. My only complaint is that the black tends to bleed and mark the seat cushions and gunwales which creates a clean-up and maintenance problem.

With today's modern space age materials, making an educated decision about what to buy can be complex. You can't go wrong in choosing a name brand that is proven. Checking with local skippers can also aid you—you may find out what not to buy! I have not found the perfect foul weather suit yet, but I have been eyeing one in a mail order catalog with such great features as double knees and seats, rip-stop waterproof fabric, heavy duty nylon zippers, full Velcro storm flaps, Velcro cuff closures, really watertight pockets, comfortable wrist closures that do not chafe or bind, but will keep the water out, double seam construction and last but not least, a workable fly. The price seems steep, but as soon as my curent set gets a plug rip that is beyond repair, I am going to lay out some hard earned cash for a set of the above. For the amount of time I spend on the water, I can't afford to be uncomfortable. I know it will be a fine investment.

Once you have got that good set of gear it is highly important to take care of it. I have known guys who leave their gear on board in damp, dark lockers and cabins or balled up under some other gear. When called on again for protection, is it any wonder that this gear gets you from the inside out? I carry my stuff neatly folded in a sail bag and stow it away from damp gear or heavy pressure. Whenever it puts in a day's work, I take care to wash it in a large bucket of water using a mild detergent whenever needed to remove saltwater encroachments. I hang it out to dry thoroughly and then refold and pack it away for the next trip.

As Longfellow wrote, "My soul is full of longing, for the secret of the sea, and the heart of the great Ocean, sends a thrilling pulse through me." A common bond and feeling for most seagoing men. Keep the thrilling pulse in and the elements out and you have comfort afloat.

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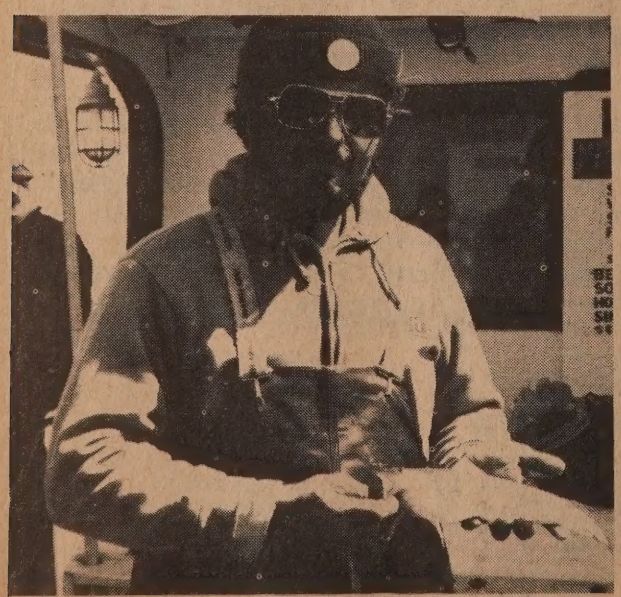
No Time for TEE-SHIRTS

by Andy Regina

Summer fishing is great. Warm, beautiful days of comfort, where you can usually beat the heat by wearing a pair of shorts, or at least a pair of lightweight slacks and a tee shirt. Clothing then is no problem, even if it should rain and you get caught without a raincoat or foul weather gear. The worst that could possibly happen is that you'll get wet; but you'll often become dry again before the end of the trip, long before you go home. And sometimes the rain is even a blessing in disguise, cooling you off briefly—especially during the hot and humid dog days of July or August.

But during the winter it's a whole new ballgame—a completely different story, due to the cold weather. Besides being cold and damp, it's usually blowing pretty briskly from a northerly quarter, making it seem even colder than it actually is, because of the wind chill factor involved. Now you must dress properly, in layers to trap in body heat, or you will soon become too cold to fish comfortably, which will ruin any pleasure you may derive from catching fish. You know that now is not the time for tee shirts; so dress accordingly, and bring along your foul weather gear, too. Even if it doesn't rain, the foul weather gear will help to keep you warm by locking out the cold wind, and locking in body heat—a double blessing that is more fully appreciated once you get out on the open water.

Of course, you can always stay at home if you so choose, hugging the warmth of the radiator and watching the boob tube, but if you're a fisherman as crazy as I am, you've just got to get out fishing—regardless of the cold weather, just to retain your sanity. Naturally, the point about sanity will be argued by your loved ones, but what seems insane to some people may be considered normal by others; so I never argue with those at home. My philosophy is "different strokes for different folks," and everyone is entitled to their own beliefs. When my wife starts carping on winter fishing, I avoid insensible argument by just picking my tackle up and leaving. There is no argument out on the water. Another plus for fishing!



King-sized tommies caught in deeper water can be about a pound apiece, as witness this jumbo caught aboard a party boat in the Sound.

Winter fishing in the western end of Long Island Sound is honestly not all that much to speak of; there are usually always some small flounder or tommy cod available, maybe some herring or tinker mackerel, or, if you're really lucky, some whiting, which put in a rare appearance around these parts.

For some strange reason, whiting do not always come down our way in a set yearly pattern, as they do in other places on the Sound. We spend each winter in eager anticipation of their invasion, but we are generally disappointed more times than not. When they do appear, however, word spreads like wildfire, and anglers of all ages and both sexes crowd the available docks and floats to try to cash in on this infrequent bonanza.

When a whiting blitz is on, City Island instantly takes on a summer appearance again. Parking spaces are at a premium; the coffee shops and tackle shops cater to crowds, and people once more walk the streets as they scuttle back and forth between car and tackle shop, or between coffee shop and fishing pier. The Island loses that desolate, deserted, wintry look for awhile—at least as long as the whiting run lasts. After that, it's back to the long winter hibernation once more, and City Island once again becomes a lonely place.

What we die-hards rely on for fairly consistent winter fishing is the tommy cod. This little fish is aptly dubbed "frostfish," and can be caught throughout the winter. Its readiness to take a wide variety of baits, together with its availability and the fact that it tastes delicious, makes the tommy cod a popular cold weather visitor. They are small fish though, averaging less than a pound and rarely surpassing two pounds, so you should scale down your tackle accordingly, to more fully appreciate any sport that these little frostfish have to offer.

This is where the light stuff comes into its element: light or ultra-light fishing rods, tiny reels, and line testing out at about six pounds is ideal here, and seems made to order for tommy cod fishing. Light tackle doesn't necessarily mean spinning tackle either, although light spinning tackle will do nicely. Any light conventional tackle will also fill the bill, as long as you do not overmatch these small fish with gear too heavy to permit you to enjoy their sport. When you stop to think about it, you can apply this same maxim to all fishing: try to match your tackle to extract the maximum enjoyment you can expect from any fish.

Rigging for tommies is relatively simple; the same basic bottom rig used for flounder or porgies will also work well here. Because of their diminutive size, hooks used for tommy fishing must necessarily be small—a couple of small beak, Sproat, or Chestertown hooks tied in tandem above a light sinker will do the job. Size 8 hooks work well, and you can rig them in tandem by first bending the leader of the first hook in half, then slipping that bent leader through the eye loop of the second hook, and pull the second hook through the leader of the first hook until it snugs up tightly; then tie a simple overhand knot in the leader of first hook, to prevent the hooks from sliding out of position while you fish.

It's funny how often the neglect of tying that simple

overhand knot causes fishermen problems because of the hooks becoming bunched together, so take a moment to ensure a properly tied rig, and fish with a fresh head.

Look for tommies on a soft bottom, such as that same bottom flounder like; soft mud is good because tommies love to grub in the soft bottom for tiny bits of clams and worms, once again paralleling the flounder. And fish for tommies the same way that you would fish for flounder also, lowering your baited hooks directly on the bottom, where all the action is. Jigging your rod to make your sinker bounce in the mud will stir up puffs of mud that will dislodge tiny particles of food that will attract tommies, and they'll come around to feed, picking up your baits in the process.

Almost any soft baits work well for tommies: small pieces of clam, tiny bits of shrimp or whole grass shrimp (if you can find any), mussels, or seaworms. We take the path of least resistance, and most always use sandworms, which work well for us. Just remember that because of the small mouth of the tommy, plus the fact that you are using small hooks, any bait used must also be fairly small, or you will end up feeding more fish than you will be catching.

And tommies don't overwhelm you with any arm-jarring strike either; they have a habit of sucking in a bait at times that can be almost imperceptible. To beat him at his game, you should make a practice of slowly lifting your rod a foot or two, after you have first vigorously bounced the sinker on the bottom a few times, and after a slight wait for any interested tommy cod to get to your bait. This will prompt the little glutton to grab your bait in a hurry, thus getting hooked in the process—once again much in the very same manner as flounder fishing, to which we must equate our technique. In fact, quite often you will score double-headers of a tommy on one hook and a flounder on the other, which graphically points out the similarity of both fishes identical habitat, favorite foods, and feeding routine.

If fishing from a boat, try the areas immediately adjacent to channels, or any deep holes. When fishing from piers or docks, don't neglect the water in your immediate vicinity in your anxiety to cast out, to where the "big ones" are. Quite often these little fish swarm right under piers and docks, to feed on the tiny crustaceans or the minute life seeking the protection of the pilings.

Fishing straight up and down will facilitate jigging, which cannot be accomplished if you must cast out any distance too far to do so. In this instance, try reeling your rig in very slowly along the bottom, pausing every couple of feet for a few moments, to give the fish that may be following your bait time to ingest it. Pier fishing prompts many anglers to fish for tommies with drop lines, securing several to bells that are screwed into the pier to signal the minute bites. Although we much prefer to fish with our rod hand-held at all times, believing that we can feel fish more readily this way, and frown on droplines in general because we do not consider them to be sporting we do not condemn their use. If fishing with droplines is your bag—go to it; we honestly can't blame you anyway, because these sweet-tasting tommies are a gourmet's delight: flaky white and juicy when dipped in flour and pan fried to a crisp golden brown, and served with lemon wedges and tartar sauce, with a heaping helping of French Fried potatoes and a cold glass of beer.

And besides, by fishing with bell-held droplines, you can keep your hands in your pockets instead of freezing them by holding a fishing rod—like I do.

But I don't mind too much, especially if the fish are cooperative, and the sun is shining. Then I turn my back to the wind, try to find a lee corner some place, and dream of warmer days, like those days in summer mentioned above. And while I sit and dream, and slowly freeze, I too, get to realize that tommy time is definitely no time for tee shirts!

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Only Once!

by Captain John DeMaio

It isn't all over yet. Even during this age of dwindling fish stocks, the unexpected can happen. The once in a lifetime can occur. A fishing trip to match your fantasy will mature into a reality. And as usual, without any expectation.

Such a trip happened on the "Vivienne" at Montauk. I was booked for an all day trip by three of my regular customers: Frank Retacco, Howard Kalka and George Layton. Now, these three fishermen have been wtih me for four years and have been fortunate enough to experience some exceptionally good fishing. I usually joke and kid these three with things like, "You should book me in March for striped bass; I bet we would catch them" A spring trip with a total of ninety cod and twenty-two flounder, twenty-eight striped bass up to 51 lbs.—in August no less, and many excellent trips casting for bass. These gentlemen prefer light line fishing and refuse to troll. For four years, we have never used a wire line. If we can't catch a bass either casting or diamond jigging, the preference would be fishing the bottom over trolling. They are three good anglers who have sharpened their jigging and casting skills measurably in the past few years. In the beginning, when they were still getting the **feel** for this kind of fishing, I outfished them badly. Now, I have trouble keeping up with them.

We sailed away from the dock that morning prepared for a day of varied fishing. We were going to diamond jig, cast, and fish porgies. I had the necessary claim bait and chum for the porgies. My party, as usual, had taken along their own casting tackle.

There had been a little bass action the day before early in the morning. So I steamed directly for that area immediately. On arrival I found two boats working the range, both trolling. As I was getting into position I shouted over to one boat (I knew the boat), "What's going on?" "Only one," he replied. "Nothing much happening!"

I put the boat over the bottom I wanted, headed her into the tide and hung in at an idle in gear. A method called stemming the tide. All four of us dropped the jigs and made no more than two bounces on the bottom when Frank and Howard hooked up. Two bass came up to the gaff: one of about twenty-five pounds and the other around twelve. I hustled the boat back over that piece of bottom again. Once more, a single line went tight. I took a bass of about six pounds. We moved back and forth over that area for the next half hour and never had another hit. The tide had less than two hours of ebb left. Now was the time for dropping the anchor over a piece of porgy bottom.

We found the porgies obliging and pulled steadily until the tide eased up. Just the opposite of what you would expect. It was still too early to try the casting on the beach—I wanted the flood tide for that—so I dropped the anchor in another area. This time I dropped in behind a ridge and in deep water.

Well, as luck would have it, the boat wound up laying over a bottom formation. Fishing wasn't furious, but we caught the unexpected: a codfish of three pounds. Some porgies, of course, and a sea bass that went four pounds easily. Also two bergalls that were at least two pounds apiece. The bergalls and the codfish led me to believe that I stumbled over some wreckage, east of Great Eastern. I kidded my party, "It could only happen to you guys."

By now the beach would be ready. I hauled anchor and switched over to casting tackle while I headed inshore. Things were disappointing inside. No bass and weaks. Some small blues and a lot of cavorting false albacore. We amused ourselves for awhile trying to catch the albacores. Once the tide was ready for that bass spot, we left the beach and moved outside again. This time we switched back to the jigging tackle.

The bass did not bite on the flood tide. Bluefish though, in the five to eight pound class, were being very accommodating. After taking 100 lbs. of blues, I moved off searching around for bass. Here and there we found blues, but no bass. No **striped** bass! Two more of those four pound sea bass jumped on the jigs. By now, Frank and Howard were bored with this and elected to end the day along the beach casting. Casting conditions were bad: the weather was too good—clear, bright and a calm sea. Also, the water was very clear. But we didn't care. We already had put together a good trip. Besides, the weather conditions did not slow down the bouncing albacores. My party would rather catch and release an occasional albacore, taken casting with eight pound test line, than fill up the boat with bluefish. Then, too, I had an ace up my sleeve. A chance of some small blues or even a weakfish showing themselves along North Bar on the start of the ebb. There would be enough time to get a few casts in before heading for home.

We began trying to catch the albacore by trolling instead of casting. Using the casting rods, we dropped the bucktail lures back about 300' and I trolled the boat at 1200 RPMs; similar to tuna trolling. It worked. We picked away at the albies. Nice size fish, between twelve and eighteen pounds. Frank had one that took so much line it spread the spool reeling the fish back in.

Finally we left from under the light and headed for home. Moving slowly, I kept my eyes open for any

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signs of fish. The tide was slack at North Bar. Both the fish and the "Vivienne" arrived at the same time. Fish were breaking water and a few birds were starting to dive. I placed the boat in position and we all cast our lures into the boiling water. My party worked their bucktails high. Immediately they went tight on two pound bluefish. Playing a hunch, I allowed my bucktail to settle deeply in the water before I began to retrieve. When I swung back on the hit, I knew I had hold of something larger than a two pound bluefish. It was a weakfish. Maybe five pounds.

George needed a little prompting, but Howard and Frank knew just what to do. All the lines were sent to the bottom before retrieving. Three more weaks hit the deck before the school broke up.

By now there were a few schools to choose from. Fish were splashing all around us. Because of a boat trolling outside of us, I moved into the shallow water. This way both of us could work on our own private school. We were the only two boats.

Inside was less than ten feet of water. Clear water. You could see the fish charging the ball of red bait. (Striped anchovies have a pinkish hue when still alive, and give off a dull orange-red color when balled up.) Most of it was weakfish. This was good fishing. A school of weakfish all to ourselves. The only competition was some surfcasters who were really out of range, by only a few feet. You had to be right into the action. As I mentioned before, the sea was calm and the weather delightful. You really couldn't ask for anything more. The madness was yet to come.

After twelve fish, mostly weaks ranging from four to eight pounds, the action stopped. Nothing could be seen on top. The tide was barely noticeable on the water now; hardly moving the boat. The wind was at a dead calm. No air at all. I moved back outside into a little deeper water in hopes of intercepting the fish. "Maybe," I thought to myself, "the bait has moved outside."

Still allowing our lures to sink (albies were now showing here and there), we began to pick at the weaks. Slowly the bait began to appear again in the usual swirling ball pattern. Now, the insane part of this trip, and the reason for this article, began to mature.

Have you ever seen small bait fish huddle near the boat to escape the larger fish feeding upon them? This is not unusual at all. Over the years, I have seen this time and time again. The bait moves in close for only a few minutes and scatters. At times, I have netted handfuls of baitfish right off the top of the water. These little fish will go to any extreme to avoid being eaten—most often with a reckless abandon.

Fishing Jamaica Bays meadows once, a school of small bass had the

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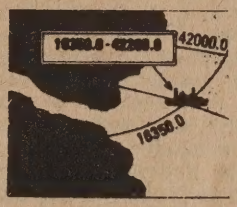

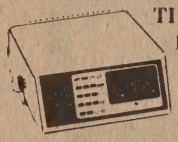

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spearing bait jumping into the weeds in a vain attempt to elude the predator. Frost fishing bears a similarity: the whiting would move into the surf's shallows chasing the bait right onto the beach, often being caught in the force of a wave themselves and being thrown onto the beach.

Once again, and maybe not the "Only Once" the fish lost their cunning. Forsaking their better instincts in a feeding frenzy. Both the hunted and the hunter.

The bow of the boat was facing inshore placing my starboard side up-tide. A large school of the tiny striped anchovies, no more than two inches long, hugged up close to the "Vivienne." Slowly the pursuing weaks, blues, albacores, and some bonito, began to close in. Having seen this before, I thought it wouldn't last long. I was wrong. It never stopped.

What a sight to see. My boat looked as though it was sitting in a pot of boiling red water. All the game fish kept rising to the surface charging the bait. Completely unreal! No one was casting anymore. A little toss outside the boiling perimeter and a slow retrieve was a guarantee. Fish after fish began coming over the rail. You could look down to the bottom and see the weaks stacked up. Why even cast? I would drop the lure straight down and raise it slowly.

All the action was under the boat. The rest of the area would not yield a fish. The boat trolling stayed awhile just to watch. The captain kept shouting over, "I don't believe it." Neither did I.

Both boxes were now filled to the top with wriggling fish. They were falling out of the boxes and onto the deck. Blood, scales and fish were under our feet. I realized that this looked like it would last awhile, so I finally went below and brought up the barrel.

You could have caught the fish with a bamboo pole. Heavy tackle and multiple hook lures would have tripled the catch. Still, we kept to the light casting gear. An occasional albie would grab a lure and snap a line. Small blues would bite off the lure. The need for tying on new lures slowed up productivity. But who the hell cared; it was wild.

Lures were tied onto ten pound test lines without the support of leaders. Weaks were being swung over without the aid of a gaff. At least thirty percent of what was hooked got away.

In the past I have gaffed a weakfish right off the top of the water. Not one on my line, but a weak that was following the one that was hooked. This was the first time I ever gaffed free swimming weakfish. The fish were so thick under the boat that I was able to gaff three right off the top as they rolled to the surface.

The albacores surprised me. A

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desire for their favorite bait made them throw caution to the wind. Weaks I know are dumb, but albacores? On the up-tide side, the albies would group in circling numbers under the boat. Then they would charge the bait fish past the prop and rudder, and emerge on the other side of the boat, barely below the surface. Four to six albies at a time would make this move as if on a pre-determined signal. Because of my success with gaffing the weaks, I thought I could take an albie. By now we were all playing games.

Those albies went by like blue rockets. Their speed is incredible. Even though several of them ran into the gaff, I never managed to stick one. Good thing. They may have torn my arm loose.

Never forget that all this time the boat is drifting. Very slowly, but drifting all the same. How we managed to hold the fish is truly amazing. The bait fish embraced the boat and swam right along seeking the protection. So naturally the game fish stayed with the free lunch. Had the bait broken up and swam off in different directions, the party would have terminated. But it wasn't happening. My boat drifted true; never turning or swaying. No rolling from wave action. For all practical purposes, we might as well have been a mass of floating weed.

Everyone on board was having one helluva time. The boat looked like a pig pen. Everything was covered with regurgitated bait fish. Some of it was fresh and some partially digest. It was on the gunwales...the combing...the decks. The bulkhead...Over our clothing and in our hair. It seemed to me the most often heard remark was, "Did you see that?" or, "He broke my line, I need another lure."

Even with the blood upon us, my party resisted the use of heavier tackle. Good for them. All the fish meant to them was to have a good time. Monetary value was never considered. Not so for this writer. At last I switched to a thirty pound test jigging rod with a single jig. All that was needed to do was to drop the jig, a three ounce Ava-27, to the bottom and lift up and down—five, six, eight, nine weaks and then it was all over. The weakfish left us.

Very rarely do I ever stop fishing to take pictures. But this is one time I would have given anything for a movie camera. I would have climbed up on the cabin shed and shot the entire scene.

We had been drifting no more than a half hour; during that period the weaks never left. Now, they were gone. But only the weakfish. Some blues and a large amount of albacore were still around the boat. Those poor, dumb terrified striped anchovies would not leave the hull of the "Vivienne." How much longer we could have drifted and held the

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bait is unknown.

We all had it! No one seemed to care about catching another albie or a small blue. The fish that had been jumping out of the bulging fish boxes were picked up off the deck and returned to the box. All three containers were up to the brim. Knowing their capacity, I gave a quick estimate of 700 lbs. of fish. That, in itself, is no great accomplishment. The wild frenzy of the last half-hour was the thrill of a lifetime. Someone used the old axiom on the way home, "It was like catching fish in a barrel."

When we stopped fishing, three boats had us encircled and were casting into the turbulent orange water encompassing the "Vivienne." I only saw one small blue taken by one of these boats. As we left and pulled away from the "barrel," the remaining boats were casting into the still present bait ball. What they thought of us I can only imagine. How the hell we could be doing what they could see must have mystified them. Don't forget that in any direction from my boat not a sign of any working fish were visible.

The chances of repeating anything like that again is a long shot. Too many factors have to come into play at once. A calm sea is important, a rolling boat would drive out the bait fish. The right bait. A proper time of the tide is crucial. And don't forget the game fish. Also, a handful of competitive boats with ambitious crews might have nipped the blitz in the very beginning.

Fishing like this on a steady basis is not wanted and totally unnecessary. Even my party that day would agree to that. Anyone who knows about and enjoys casting for fish, will tell you that it is better to have the fish away from the boat within casting range. In this pattern you can cast some line off the reel and allow for a retrieve. During the retrieve the expected **hit** is handled with the angler's skill. Leap jobs are exciting and make for memories and good conversation whenever angling buddies get together. Thank God they happen, "Only once."

On the ride back to the dock we searched out the last of the beer and soda and helped ourselves to George Layton's gourmet offerings. I turned on the wash-down pump and gave Frank the wheel. While I scrubbed the boat down the three anglers relaxed. The adrenalin had stopped flowing and their relaxation was a deep reflective peace. A feeling that only commercial fishermen do experience. How sweet it is.

When we reached the dock, my fares were in no mood for filleting fish—not all the fish we had. They kept all the sea bass. Some large porgies. Slected a few choice weaks and one bass. The rest was left to me and I shipped the lot to the market.

The return showed eighty-three

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pounds porgies; 233 lbs. of bluefish. And the few bass weighed in at 37 lbs. Weakfish total was 203 lbs. The best I can figure is that 300 lbs. of fish were landed in that wild half hour, making the average of sixty fish, or two per minute. Once more, had we been using heavier tackle, the catch would have been well over that figure. Entire catch total, counting what was taken home, came to approximately 660 lbs. This does not include at least twelve albacore that were released.

It is not unusual for any Montauk charter boat to put in that much weight in their boat, if so desired. This can easily be accomplished any summer's day bluefishing. I, myself, have had many such trips. What remains imprinted in our memories is the sight of those feeding game fish under the boat.

Weakfish rolled through the water as if in a slow-moving ballet. Their vibrant colors brilliantly glowing against the sand and kelp bottom. False albacore moved like blue torpedoes, occasionally flashing their silver undersides. Then only feet below, they would assemble for another signaled attack on the bait. Here they moved slower and the mackerel pattern on their backs was easily distinguishable in the clear, clean water. Acrobatic bluefish came roaring into sight and halted abruptly only a yard from the boat. Some lay still for a moment, showing their rows of sharp teeth as the gills opened and closed in mute rhythm. The evil eye of the bluefish would swivel around the scene before him, unable to make any sense out of what he could see.

When called upon, even the daily fisherman can remember every catch he has ever made. No matter how far back he must go. Everything is filed deep in your memory. Both the good and the bad trips. Some memories burn brighter than others. So it is with this trip. Time will not diminish the memory of this **event**. It was an, "Only Once."

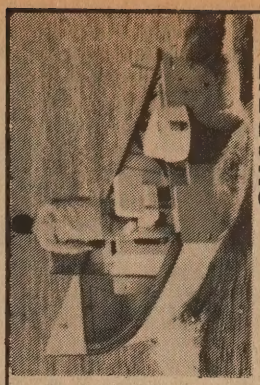
AUTHOR'S NOTE: Although I have written a detailed account of a particular day's fishing, what immediately follows is a brief description of this extraordinary day by George Layton, one of the three men aboard the boat that day. After years of suffering my punishing abuse in demanding perfection from my anglers, George has finally avenged my verbal attacks. His ability to write easily surpasses my own and I am humbled by his talent. All I can say is "George, you should only fish as good as you write!"

A TRUE STORY
By George Layton

One day last September, while fishing on Captain John DeMaio's boat, I had the most amazing "once-in-a-lifetime" experience.

Frank, Howard and I (DeMaio's "regulars") were returning to port at the end of a fishing day which, by

(Continued on page 66.)



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ECONOMICAL TRANSPORTATION:

OUTFITTING A FOURTEEN FOOT TIN BOAT

Part Two—by Tim Coleman

This week we'll take a look at more ways to customize a 14' tin boat. In last week's issue, we left off at midpoint in this versatile little machine. That's where we'll start now.

An added comfort (to your feet) is a level floor. Since most of the fishing and steering of the boat is done from between the middle and stern seats, this area is a logical choice for flooring. Mine was slanted so spray or rain water would not collect in puddles. The floor was also tapered to the contour of the boat's hull and braced underneath for strength. It can be taken out for cleaning it, or the boat.

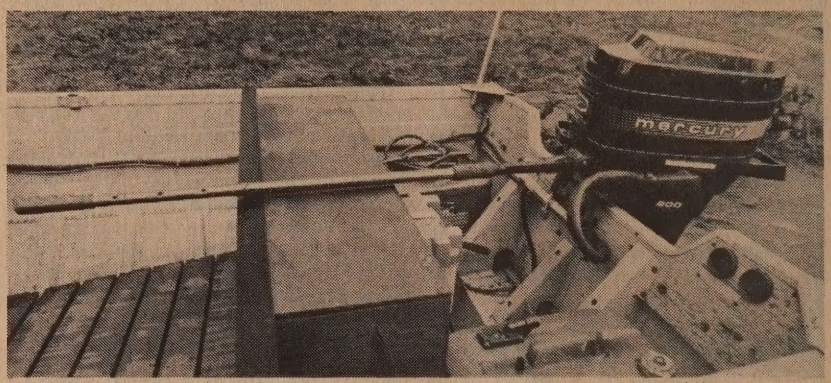
For anyone who has ever fished a lot in a tin boat without a floor, you will appreciate one that has this extra dimension. It's nice to quit fishing at the end of a long day without your toes pointing uphill.

Another plus is to have a tackle compartment built somewhere. That way you can leave all your stuff right on the boat. The only thing I take out of mine is the chart recorder and the rods. The rest stays put until the next trip.

One logical place to put a box big enough to hold a lot of fishing junk was atop the stern seat. The box runs three-quarters the length of the seat and the whole width. The top opens to the stern, allowing easy access to a person fishing between the stern and middle seats. You won't lose the seat as a seat if you use sturdy wood.

One benefit of this tackle box seat is a person sitting on it can see over the bow while in motion. Before, a person sitting down could not see what was just in front of the bow.

An extension handle for the motor is indispensible for these boats as far as I'm concerned. Being able to run the boat from an upright position literally let's you see what's going on. That might be a school of pogies or a submerged rock or a lobster pot, etc. These handles fit right over the throttle control and allow the operator to stand anywhere from two to four feet further away from the motor and still control it. Check with your boatyard or dealer for details on an extension handle for your engine.



Extension handle for motor allows operator to stand between stern and middle seat yet still maintain control.

Next step was a slanted hardwood floor between the stern seat and the stern. The floor had small blocks of wood attached on top with spaces between them for battery box and two, five-gallon gas tanks. The blocks keep both the battery box and tanks from moving around while underway.

Last stop on our examination of my little boat is rod holders. Remember the tackle box only went three-quarters of the length of the stern seat. The reason it didn't go all the way across is the remaining space is used for rods. They lay lengthwise between the stern and middle seats with the tops hanging over the middle seat toward the bow. The rods are held in place by rubber utility holders found in some marine hardware stores. These were fastened to both seats and the seat braces. This allows four rods to be stored in a short amount of space. Once the butts and rod shafts are pressed into the small holders, they won't be bounced around.

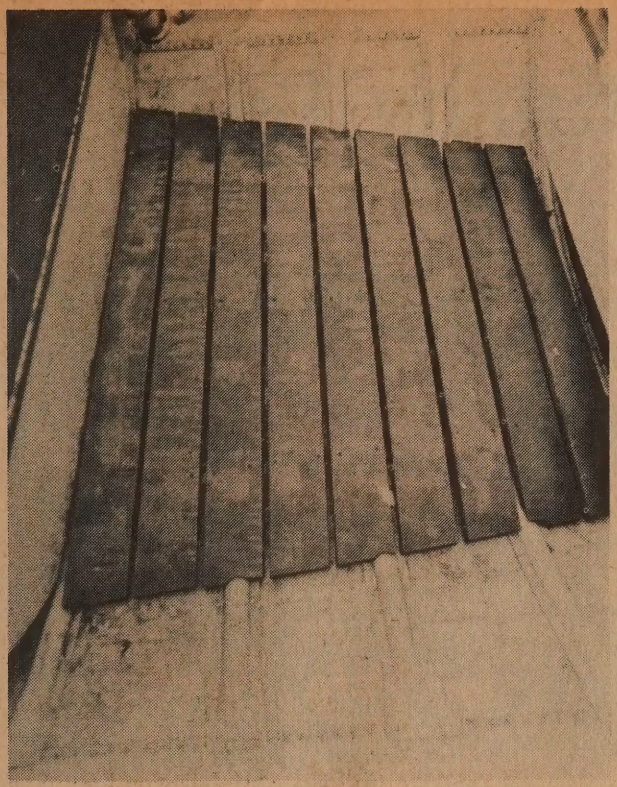
That's it for suggestions about outfitting a small boat. Now a couple words on using it. Prime consideration for boats these days is fuel economy. This is one area where these little hulls really shine. It is possible to fish all day for, say fluke, in a place like Fisher's Island Sound and not use a full five-gallon tank of gas. Even at $1.20 per gallon that translates into a day's fishing for less than $6.

On the other side of the coin is safety. A fourteen foot boat is a tiny speck. With common sense and an eye on the weather, it will take you on a lot of safe trips. Disregard these and you are liable to end up DOA—a somber thought to be sure, but a necessary one just the same. Safety considerations are even more important if you are looking at one of these boats with an eye toward getting your children involved in fishing.

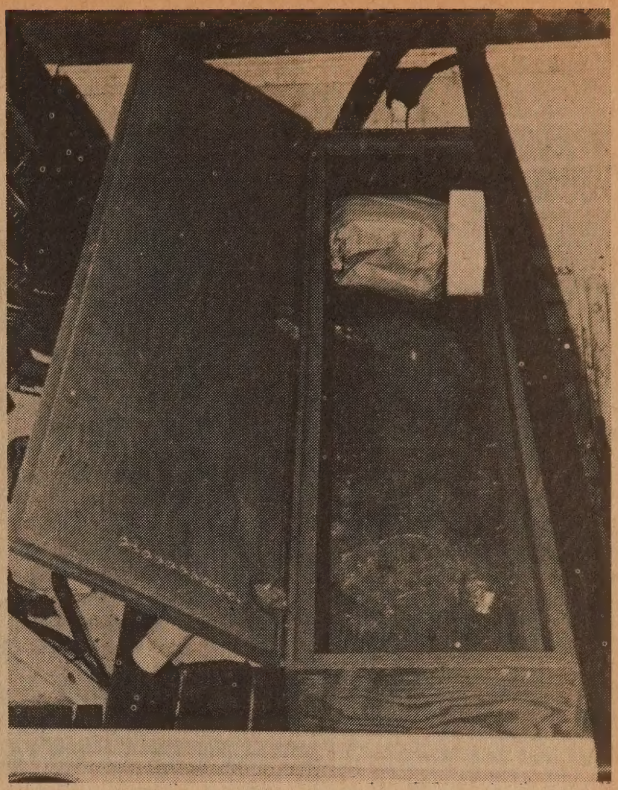
Don't overload these boats. Four adults is way too much; three adults is pushing the state of the art. Not only is the safety factor to be considered, but also comfort. Three adults and all their gear (even fishing for flats in very sheltered waters) is liable to be very crowded. Two adults or, say a father and son, is just right.

Besides boat fishing chores, these small boats can be used by surf anglers to get to spots. Points of land where beach buggies can't get to or the mouth of a small stream into a larger river for spring fishing are two examples. As parking and overland access to spots are becoming more and more of a problem, these boats could be part of the solution.

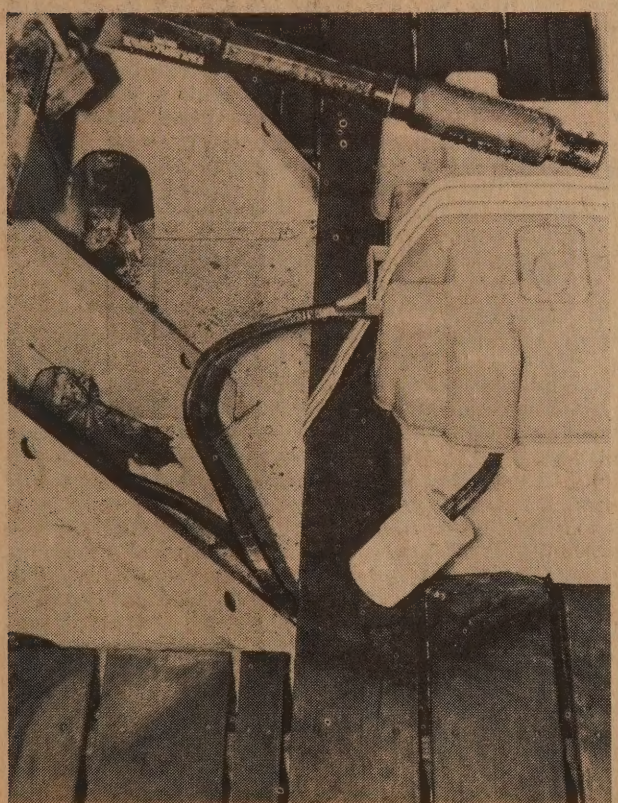
With the economy being what it is, tin boats are liable to gain in popularity. Their versatility and penny-pinching ways are prime considerations for the fisherman looking for a way to get on the water on a very limited budget.



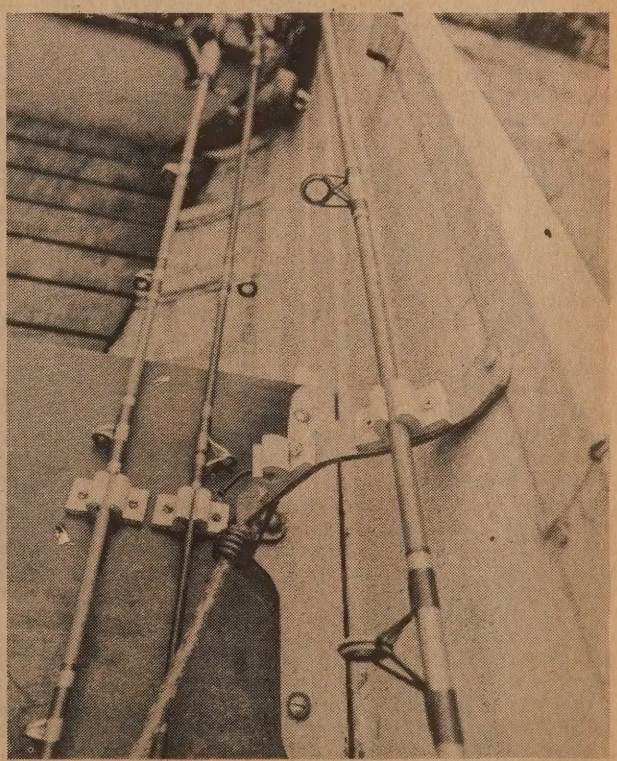
Slanted hardwood floor between middle and stern seats provide a comfortable, level platform to stand on all day long. It can be lifted out for cleaning and has been braced underneath for strength.



Tackle box has been built atop the stern seat. It runs along the seat about three-quarters of its length and the whole width. It is sturdy enough to support a person sitting on the top, once the lid is closed.

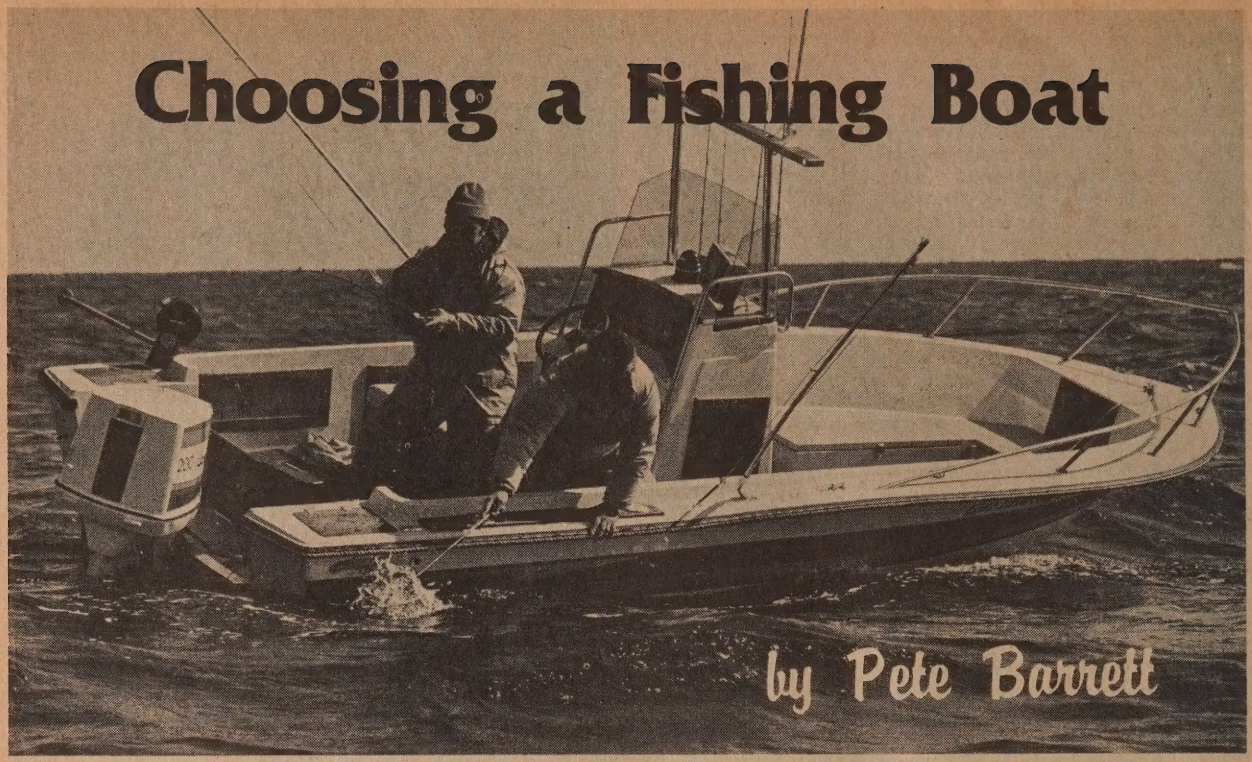


Flooring was also installed between the stern seat and the stern. Small pieces of wood put on top of the flooring keep the battery and two five gallon gas cans from moving around while under way.



Small rubber utility holders sold in some marine hardware shops were used to hold rods. The holders were attached on both the seat and seat braces. Rod butts and shafts are pressed between the holders and held snugly in place with a minimum of room taken up.

Choosing a Fishing Boat



by Pete Barrett

Never before have fishermen boaters had such a wide variety of choices open to them when selecting a new boat. Hull designs, cabin layouts, hull lengths, engine options and price ranges can boggle the mind of a would-be buyer, and although experience counts, even boaters with many seasons under their skippers' caps are often confused by the wide number of choices open to them.

One thing is absolutely certain: the right purchase will provide you with a boat you will enjoy fishing from for years to come. The wrong boat will constantly annoy you every time it is used and getting rid of a poor choice can cause a large dent in your pocketbook. The right choice will hold its value for many years.

Brochures and four color ads can lead the unwary boater down a path of dreams when they select a new boat. The ads may show a bikini clad model whizzing by, smiling and waving at you as you read the ad. Keep in mind the photo was taken on some flat calm inland lake or a back bay of Florida where there was no choppy water, no chance of a stiff nor'easter; there were no rods to stow, no coolers to fill with fish, no foul weather gear to stow, no recorder-compass-Loran-radio package to install and the deck was not filled with three other fishing buddies. Advertisements can make any boat look great. The real key to buying a boat is finding out how it will handle in a sea, and how it performs in actual use.

I've had the chance to fish out of most every type of center console boat over the last ten years and have owned at least one of each of the major manufacturers offerings. Like anyone else with some experience, I have developed some opinions on what makes a boat a good fishing machine and what options and layouts to look for when choosing a boat. I don't expect everyone to agree with my ideas, but I do hope they help you take a more in-depth look at the boat you may wish to buy while visiting the boat shows along the coast this winter.

The most important considerations should not be based on thickness of seat cushions nor decor trim packages, but on more down to earth (water) answers to questions like: where are you going to fish, how many people will fish with you, how far do you travel to get to your fishing grounds; do you need a soft ride of a deep V or a more stable drift from a modified V, do you want a center console or a cabin, will you be trolling or casting; how much gas can you afford and will you trailer the boat or keep it at a dock?

The answer to "Where will you fish" helps find answers to most of the other questions. Whether you dock at a marina or trailer, if you plan to fish forty miles offshore for sharks and tuna, you know a seventeen footer is not going to be suitable. Yet if you plan to drift for fluke in Great South Bay a smaller skiff may be just the ticket. Personally, I'd rather have a boat that was a little larger than too small. A small, seventeen foot boat loaded with four other fishermen is unsafe when negotiating an inlet, or running twenty miles along the beach to get to a good striped bass structure, yet a twenty-three footer can still fish most of the bay and river areas in our state.

Even if you dock in a bay, you may still travel many miles to get to an inlet or other grounds you fish regularly. The capacity of the fuel tank will be of prime importance. Many boaters are opting for larger tanks just to avoid the gas crunch. My Mako holds 120 gallons of fuel—enough gas to get me bluefishing twelve times or to the offshore grounds two or three times. I still have enough reserve in my tanks to keep right on fishing until supplies get better.

One of the most important questions—and one that is open to some debate—is the choice of a deep V over a modified V hull. Having owned each type of hull, my choice is clear: the deep V in most every fishing situation is far superior to the modified V. It offers a softer ride so you and all your recorders, radios, and other equipment don't get pounded to tears on a rough day, and since the V tends to slice the water better, the spray is usually spread out from the hull more effectively. A disadvantage is the tippiness of the hull. On a rough day the deep V will toss you around more than the modified V. I've never been bothered by this, and feel its much better to put up with some rocking and rolling than to pound your guts out on a thirty mile run to the HA buoy and back.

On the other hand, many fishermen prefer the modified V hulls. They have a flatter bottom, but some do offer sharp entry V up forward that helps soften the ride. On calm days the modified V will usually use a little less fuel and travel faster for an equal engine RPM than a deep V, but under

day-in, day-out fishing conditions the deep V is still a better choice.

For many years, the center console was the boat of the serious coastal angler. Today there is a trend toward the cuddy cabin or the walkaround cabin. The cabins offer more storage, a concealed head, bunks, and lots of protection from the elements—an important factor if you fish with your wife and family or brave the chilling winds of November for bass. Aquasport was the first of the traditional console boats to make a big play for the cabin boat market and right behind were Grady White, Wellcraft, Hydro-Sports and Mako. Wellcraft and Grady White have done well with the designs that offer a cabin and walkaround access circling the cabin.

These new breed of boats for fishermen are much different than their cruising counterparts. They offer much more room at the stern and are outfitted with tackle lockers, fish boxes, rod storage racks and other niceties that appeal to the angler. They are an excellent choice for a fishing boat.

My preference still leans toward the center console. The 360° unobstructed fishing platform they offer is hard to beat in my book. Whether it's sharking, trolling, drifting and diamond jigging, casting or chumming, I like the room and freedom of the center console.

The center console of 1980 is far removed from the same design of ten years ago. They have better interior layouts with unbelievable amounts of storage space, built-in live bait wells, huge fish boxes, large fuel capacity and roomy deck space.

Of specific interest are the new console designs. With higher windshields they keep the wind out of your face and they are constructed to hold lots of gear. Many have tackle lockers, lure storage and ice chests built right in. They have more than enough space on the console to accommodate any electronics you can afford to put on the boat.

If the high windshield is not enough to keep out the wind, a canvas spray hood will keep more weather off your face. Even in very bad seas of the fall, my wife and son, or fishing buddies, had no problems sitting on the forward console seat and staying dry and warm behind the spray hood.

A new option has become available in the last two years, spurred on by the Hydra-Sports Kevlar hulled boats. Other fishing boat manufacturers quickly followed with Kevlar options of their own. I had the pleasure to run a 2100 CC Hydra-Sports for the early part of the '79 season and was very pleased with the performance of the hull. Kevlar is very rigid, strong and tough. The hull was the quietest, driest and most responsive I've ever fished in. Kevlar is more expensive than the standard Fiberglas hull, but it does offer performance advantages like better fuel economy. If you trailer a boat, the lighter Kevlar hull is easier to trailer and requires a lighter, less expensive trailer.

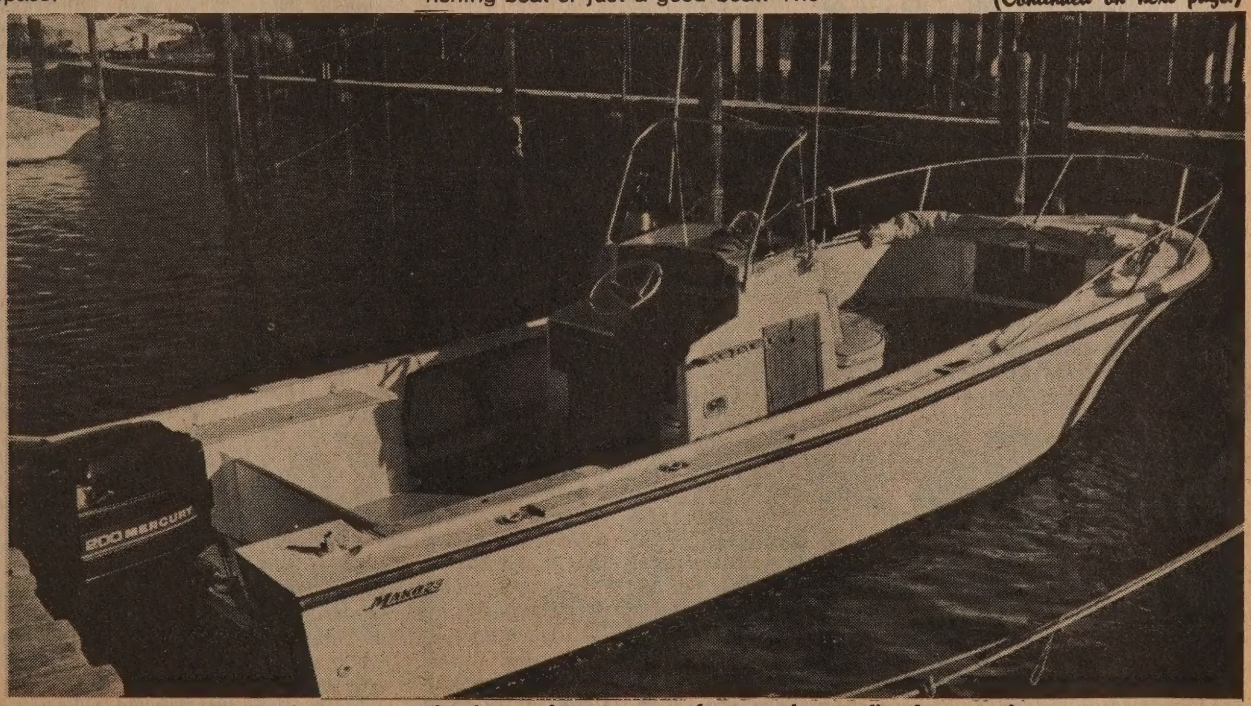
Once you have answered the basic questions you should be ready to look at some smaller, but at times no less important considerations of a fishing boat. These less obvious details are what really makes a great fishing boat or just a good boat. The top of the console or the dash on a cuddy cabin must have plenty of flat area to mount the various electronics we tend to buy. Try to imagine the size of and position of each piece of equipment you might want to install. I used cardboard cut-outs to make sure the recorder, temperature gauge, compass, instruments, accessory switches and throttle were all positioned for the best viewing and greatest clearance. There is still room in case I want to add a Loran. Radios are fitted nicely into compartments in the console itself.

Some companies offer tackle and lure lockers, plus large access doors to the inside of the console. These are nice; but keep in mind, they limit the number of side rod holders you can mount on the console. It is easy to total twelve or more rods for a day of fishing with three fishermen. My boat is equipped with holders on one side of the console to take four rods—eight on the other side and four more under the gun'ls for a total of sixteen rods.

Under the gun'l rod holders must be long enough to accommodate a standard trolling rod. Measure it. You may be surprised to find the manufacturer had five foot trout rods in mind when designing the gun'l holders. Many can easily be expanded with a little custom work by the dealer; so check this out before you buy—it makes for easy fishing later.

Look over the size and layout of the deck compartments. Is the bait well large enough to hold eighteen bunker? Can you fit all your foul weather gear, gimble belts, tackle boxes, jackets, gaffs, ropes, lines, anchors, buckets, wash-down hoses.

(Continued on next page.)



Make sure consoles have adequate room for recorders, radio, Loran and other electronics you may install. Higher windshields keep spray off operator while running to offshore fishng areas.

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brushes, soaps, tool kits, oil, chun. bucket, and the hundred other things that must go on our boat into the hatches and compartments provided? Are they lockable? Are they watertight and sealed? Do they drain if filled with water? Does the fish box drain overboard?

Check the hardware. Poor quality fittings are one way for a company to bring down the cost of the boat to be competitive. Stainless bow and console rails are by far the best and most sturdy you can find. Marinium cleats, rod holders and fittings usually are among the best, but durable hard chrome fittings are also good.

Picking out an engine is relatively easy since there is now such a wide range of horsepower ratings to look over. Having run some of the biggest engines in the last two years, I'm firmly convinced of not only their reliability, but of their great fuel economy. As an example, I can compare a twenty-two foot console boat I ran about four years ago with the same rig I run now. They are close in weight and hull design, but the older boat was powered with a 140 h.p. power plant while the newer Mako has a 200 h.p. Mercury. The older rig used nearly fifty percent more fuel for the same distance traveled under similar water conditions. For instance running to the HA buoy used to cost me forty-two or more gallons of fuel. The new rig ate up twenty-five to thirty gallons. At today's prices that is quite a savings!

This is highly dependent on the way each individual runs his skiff. Running to the HA, I'll maintain a steady 3400 RPMs and will burn little in fuel. Run that same engine at 4800 or more and watch the fuel gauge go down! One other advantage of the new large engines is the safety of the extra reserve power. On several occasions, I was glad to have the big Mercury hanging on the transom while trying to get into the inlet with a bad following sea and terrible water at the ends of the jetties.

I prefer outboards for another reason. I like a low, wide transom. Not only does it make fishing at the stern easier, but it is a necessity when trying to boat a 200 lb. tuna, or equivalent sized Mako. Inboards and I/O power plants require a high transom that makes boating large fish very difficult. They also keep the rod clear from engines when a fish makes a quick lunge for freedom at boatside.

The very best transoms are those that have a fold-up splash board. I keep the splash board up while running and drop it down as soon as we start fishing. It is possible for some water to get in the boat with the splash board down, but it isn't unsafe. The boats are self-bailing, and all that gets wet are your toes.

(Continued on page 57.)

HOW-TO SPECIAL:

MAKING BUCKTAILS

by Scott J. Simons

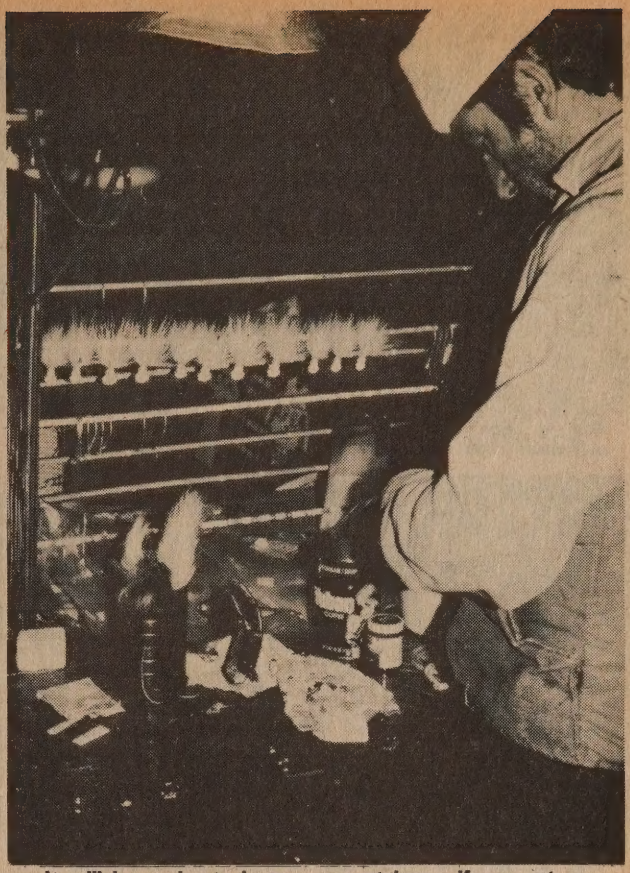
If someone posed the following hypothetical question to you, what would be your response? *"Suppose your boat broke down on the ocean and you faced the prospect of having to survive for a few weeks on the fish you could catch for food. The dilemma is that there is no bait on board and only two types of artificial lures. If you had a choice, which types of artificial lures would you want them to be?"* (No umbrella rigs!)

My first personal choice would be that old standby, the bucktail jig; the second a diamond jig. Why a bucktail? Easy—it is simply the most versatile artificial fishing lure that has ever been developed. In fact, the design of a bucktail is so basic that it has remained virtually unchanged since the first one was tied on June 23, 1176 by a Weshiedcawdit Indian in Skokie, Illinois. Bucktails are an extremely versatile lure because they can be fished in a variety of methods: casting, trolling, squidding, jigging—you name it, the bucktail can do it! They can be worked with various actions to imitate a wide variety of baitfish, and there isn't a game fish in the world, salt *or* fresh, that hasn't fallen prey to a properly worked bucktail. But enough on the virtues of the bucktails—this article is on how to make them, not fish them.

The following two pages of step-by-step photos should be enough to get you well on your way to tying your own bucktails. Not necessarily to save money, which you *will* if you tie enough of them, but more out of the thrill of catching a striped bass, bluefish or weak on a lure that has been crafted by your own hands. Most of the materials required may be purchased at your local bait and tackle shop and hardware store, but if you run into problems try the Herter's catalog. The address is: Herter's, Inc., Waseca, Minnesota 56093. A medium size bucktail only costs about two bucks and will yield one to two dozen jigs, depending on the size you are making. You'll need the following materials: bucktails, lead, jig hooks, size E nylon thread, Weldit glue and white epoxy paint. You'll also need a *large* fly tying vise, a C-clamp, ladle and a means of melting the lead. The gas lead melter used in the photos was purchased in a plumbing supply house, but for your own use a small electric lead melting pot should be more than sufficient. (For more info on melting lead, see "Cold Nights, Hot Lead" on page 56 of this issue.) You'll also need to rig up some type of rack that the painted jigs may be hung on while the paint is drying.

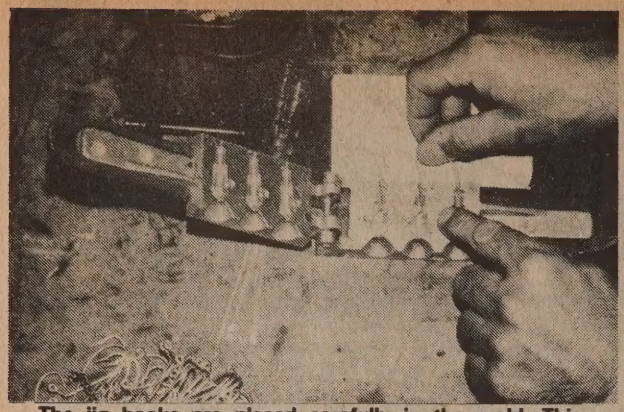
Look for an aluminum mold, which is good enough unless you are going into the jig making business. Try to get one with wooden handles that won't get hot like a metal handle. A few words of caution: make sure that the area where you are melting and pouring the lead is well ventilated so that you don't get overcome by the fumes or smell up the joint. Also, be *extremely* careful not to let any water come into contact with the molten lead—a few drops of water will actually cause a small explosion that will send molten lead flying in all directions.

While I still hold the personal belief that no one has yet come up with an artificial hair that is as effective and capable of "breathing" as the true bucktail, you can try tying your jigs with nylon hair, mylar or even feathers. If it catches fish, it works. Good luck!



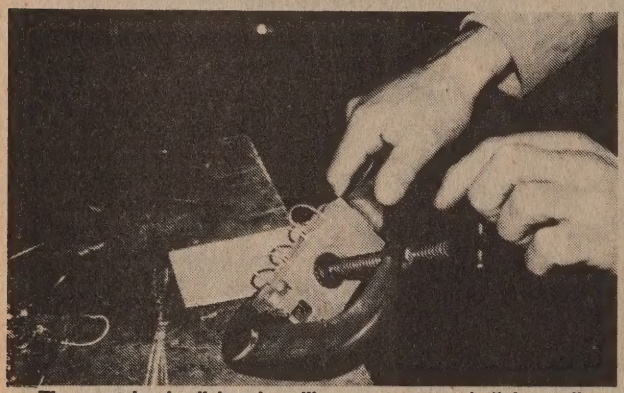
It will be easier to keep peace at home if you set up a work area in your basement or garage for making bucktails. Make certain that the area is well vented.

For melting the lead you can purchase a small electric melting pot for about twenty bucks. If you are going to do a lot of casting it may pay to make your own gas unit like the one above. You'll also need a ladle.

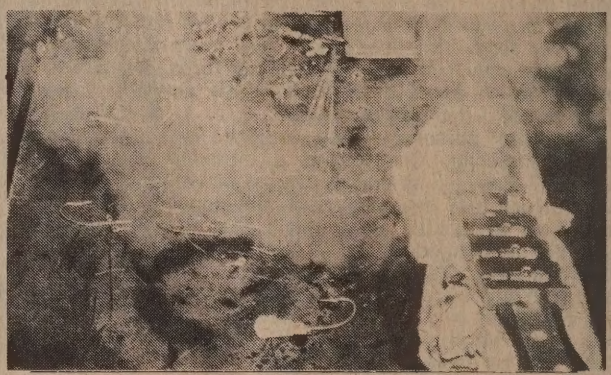


The jig hooks are placed carefully in the mold. This aluminum mold has three cavities for 1/2 oz. bucktails.

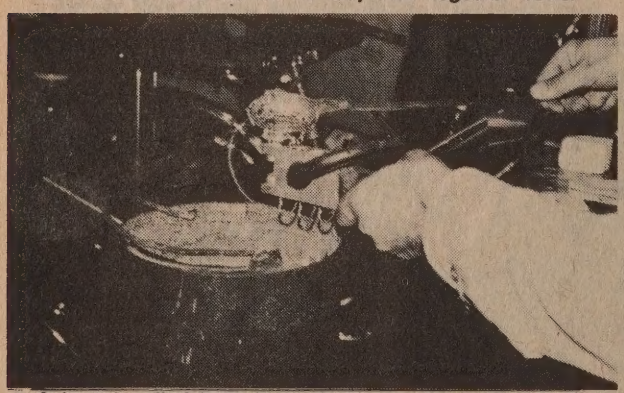
The excess chunk of metal that is attached to heads where the lead was poured is cut off with a pliers.



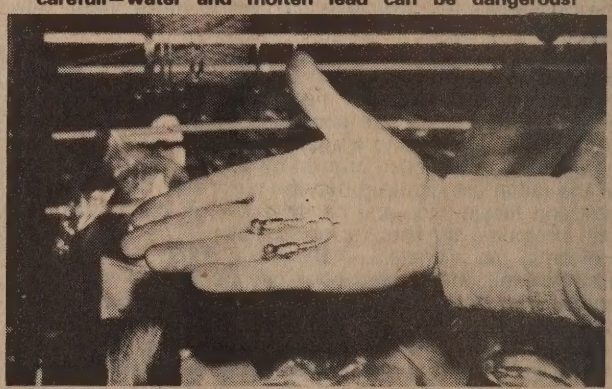
The cast bucktail heads will come out much "cleaner" if you use a large C-clamp to apply additional pressure on the two mold halves so they bind together better.



If you are doing a lot of casting the mold will eventually become too hot. When this happens, just lay the mold on a damp rag to cool it, but be very carefull—water and molten lead can be dangerous!

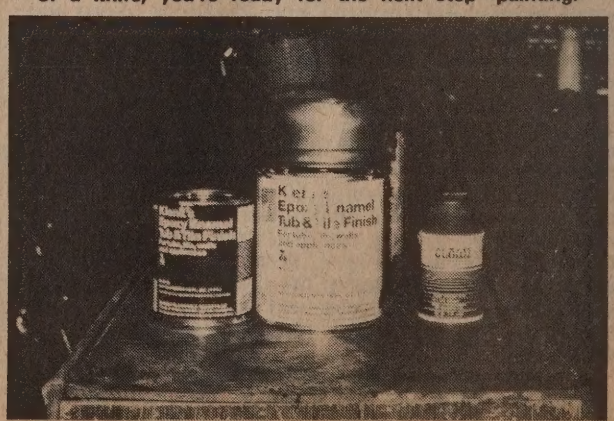


A long handled ladle is used to pour the molten lead into the cavity cutouts. A wooden handle on the mold makes it easier to handle when it begins to get hot.



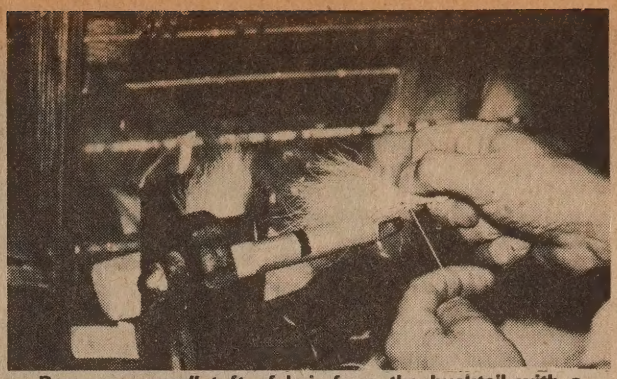
After you have cast all the heads you want and removed the excess metal by scraping with the back of a knife, you're ready for the next step—painting.

After pouring, the C-clamp is removed and the mold is opened so that the three heads may be removed.

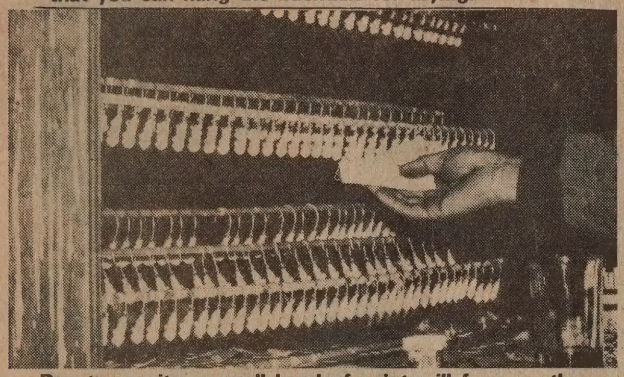


Any high quality two-part epoxy is great for bucktail heads. (Klenk's white Tub & Tile Finish recommended.) The use of a primer is not necessary.

After mixing the epoxy, just dip the head of the bucktail in it so that all of the metal has been covered. Rig up some type of rack, like the one above, so that you can hang the bucktails for drying.

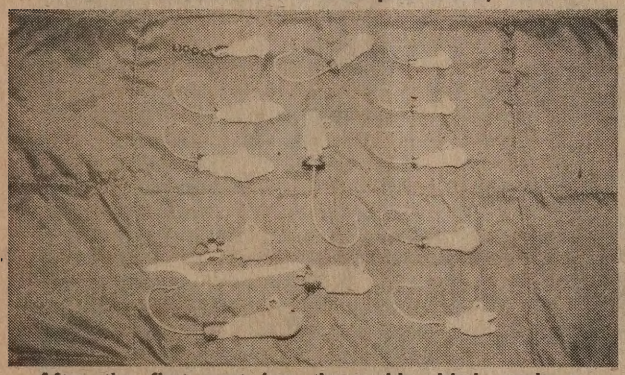


Remove a *small* tuft of hair from the bucktail with a scissors and place it alongside the jig as shown. Then make a few taut wraps with the thread to hold it in place as you add additional tufts of bucktail hair.



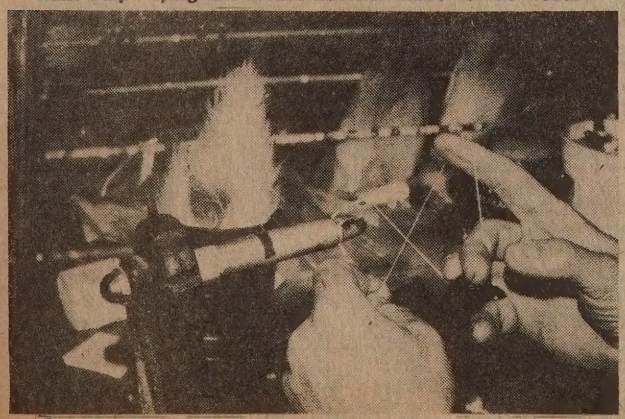
Due to gravity, a small bead of paint will form on the end of the head after it has hung for a few minutes. This should be removed by patting it with a rag as shown in the photo above. Two pats usually does it.

As an extra measure to keep the thread from unwinding, cover the wraps with *Weldit* glue, which is available in almost anv hardware store.

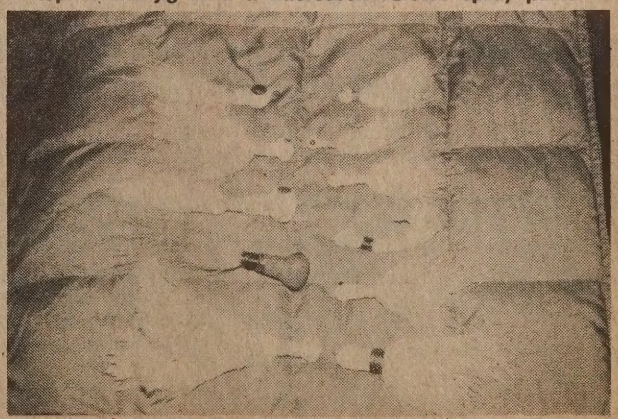


After the first coat has thoroughly dried, apply a second coat. Shown above are a dozen different type heads that have been painted and are ready for the next step—tying the white bucktail hairs to the head.

If you want to "pretty" you bucktails up a little, paint on eyes by dabbing with the eraser of a pencil. Or you can add a second color by lightly spraying the top of the jig with a fluorescent *Glowz* spray paint.



Secure the jig in a large fly tying vice as shown above. The use half-hitches to attach the size E nylon thread to the head.



An assortment of completed bucktails. The bottom left jig was tied with feathers. Notice the added effect of using a colored thread for the wrapping.

COLD NIGHTS— HOT LEAD

by McKain

Thinking of casting your own darts, bucktails and sinkers on a cold winter's night? Why not. It's a reasonable way to pass the long, dark hours and it's for sure that the "store bought" price of these items isn't going to get any less expensive than they are.

You might wonder just how much it will cost to get involved and how long it will take to recoup your investment. There are, of course, many variables to consider. How sophisticated do you want your equipment? How many weights do you want to make? Do you have access to a supply of raw lead? What about molds?

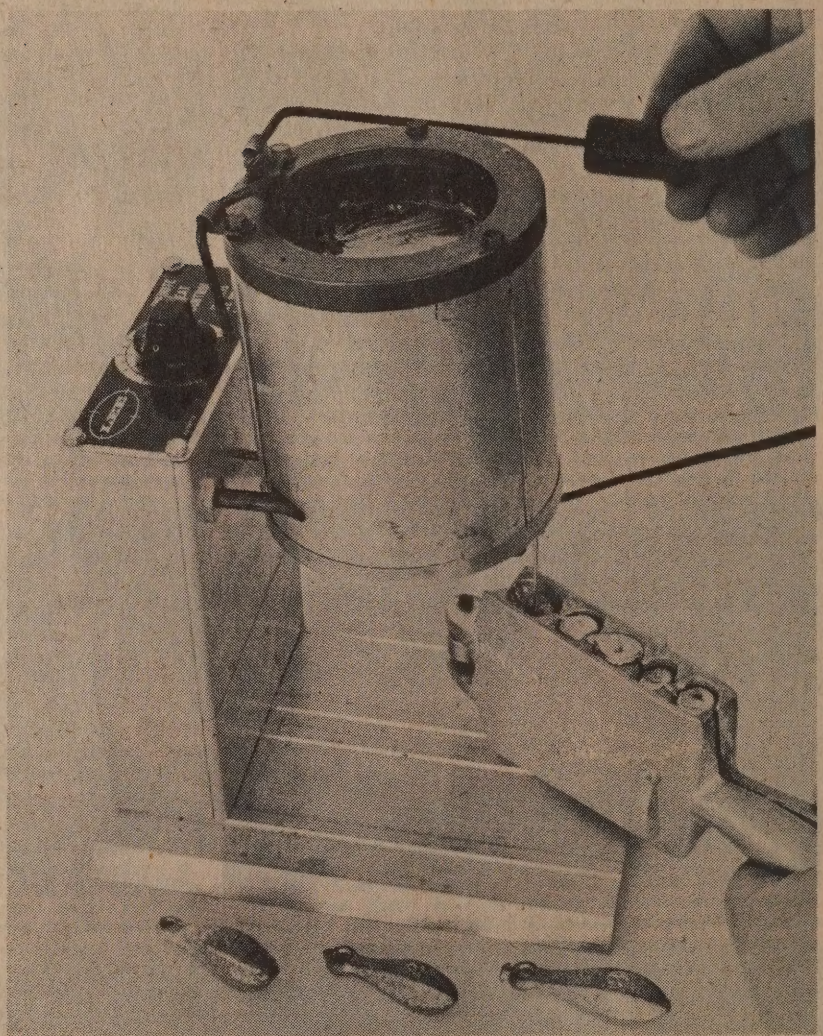
There are many ways to melt scrap lead. That is probably the first real step in casting your own lures. The more simple way to go is melting the material on a kitchen stove in an old cast iron pan.

You can employ a plumber's pot and large propane heater if your needs are large or if your club plans its own "do-it-yourself" project. But we have found a way that is more than adequate for our needs and you might just have a buddy who will loan you his for a night or two.

What we are talking about is a Lee electric lead melter. It is more normally found being used by those sportsmen who cast their own bullets. Muzzle loaders, black powder advocates and minie ball makers have used them for years, but they work just as well for fishing tackle.

Orville Warren of Warren's Bait and Tackle of Pasadena, MD has the credit for introducing this method to us. Dave Frey was casting darts as fast as Warren could tie them. They are great for ice fishing, as well as for open water winter angling on the Magothy and Severn Rivers in Maryland.

In their current offerings, Lee Precision, Inc. of Hartford, WI., lists three melters. The first, which holds over four pounds of melted lead retails for only about $18. The top of the line, at about $40, is the Lee Production Pot, holds ten pounds of lead and has an infinite heat control which allows for high heat until the lead is fully melted and then, with a simple dial, permits turning the temperature back to just sustain the lead in its molten condition while saving on electricity. All three pots come with a two-year guarantee.



The cost of the heater/melter, the molds and some hooks and lead may seem like a significant investment—and it probably is, but they will pay for themselves!

It's a matter of simple economics; it costs less to make sinkers and bucktails than to buy them ready to use. But there is seldom any "free" lunch anymore either. The days of free lead are all but over. One can turn to a nearby scrap processor if you live in a big city. In other areas, it will be the local junk yard. Oh, yes, there is a big difference in cost, quantity and quality. Remember, the more pure lead you get, the less work involved in making good weights.

With good bucktails selling for more than $1.50 for saltwater sizes and pyramid or bank sinkers for upwards of fifteen cents an ounce in the local tackle shops, it doesn't take long to run the cost of "ready-made" weights beyond the average pocketbook these days.

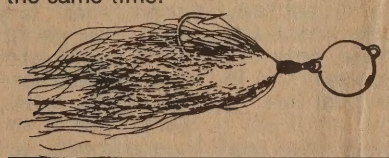
Consider the fact that one bucktail mold holds four castings. Every time you fill this with lead of your own,

add four hooks and a few minutes of your time tying on the tail, you are making what in a shop would cost in excess of $5.50 and are doing something worthwhile with your winter evenings to boot. Make five or six castings an evening and you have turned out better than $33 worth of "store-bought" rigs.

Scrap lead is inexpensive and you must remember that while it takes very little lead to make shad darts and one ounce bucktails, when you start making six and eight ounce sinkers for surf fishing you are going to use up some lead. Make sure to have plenty on hand. Nothing worse than running out when you're going great guns and have no place to get more.

One other thought in passing: why not pool your resources. Get your fishing club to finance the original purchases of molds, melters and consumables like lead, hooks and hair. Then set aside a few nights to really light a fire under the operation. You can turn out all the club will need in a very short time, at a very low cost.

One final thing, a word of caution so to speak. Hot lead and cold beer seldom work well together. Do one and then the other—but not both at the same time.



CHOOSING A FISHING BOAT

(Continued from page 52.)

That's a small price to pay for the added room.

I/Os also take away too much from the rear deck area and inboards, at least in a center console, use up most of the storage space beneath the console. You may not mind this loss of space and fishing room, but it is an important thing to toss around while finalizing your thoughts on buying a new boat. Once you take delivery, it's too late to make the switch.

It is obvious that I have some strong opinions about what I like in a fishing boat. Perhaps they don't fit the bill for you, and you may have equally strong opposite opinions. That's true of all boaters and fishermen. I offer my thoughts just to get you thinking before you hand over $10,000, $15,000 or more dollars on your next rig. Look for yourself. Don't believe all the fancy ads, talk to the dealer about service and handling and if at all possible, try to arrange a demonstration ride before you buy.

The right choice will please you for many a tide and add immeasurably to fishing success.

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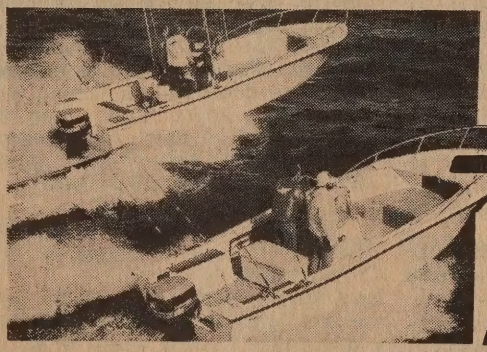

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UNCLE JOSH DEVELOPS HELPFUL PORK RIND FISHING FILM

The first and only full length educational film devoted to pork rind fishing was recently produced and is available immediately from the Uncle Josh Bait Company.

Entitled **PORKIN' FOR BASS**, the new "how-to" film graphically displays many different pork rind fishing techniques developed over the past 50 years and is designed to aid and benefit fishermen in all parts of the country...in all types of water.

Bob Musselman, fishing instructor and professional guide, along with Dick Collier, champion professional fisherman, share proven methods for fishing pork rind in weed-choked shallows, deep water structures, farm ponds and rivers.

A wide variety of pork rind patterns, including the pork frog, the pork strip, the pork eel and Ripple-Rind are described and demonstrated. Throughout the course of this entertaining and informative film much detailed information is provided on fishing the various pork rind patterns on plain hooks, plain and skirted jigs, a wide assortment of spinner baits and various spoons.

Pork rind, unlike other baits, can be trimmed or cut smaller and helpful tips on trimming and handling pork rind, as well as useful information on pork rind's superior qualitites, is provided.

The 16 mm sound and color film loaned at no charge is for use in tackle stores, fishing clubs, educational seminars and classes. Detailed "How To Fish Pork Rind in Fresh Water" folders are available in quantities, free of charge. Write to the Uncle Josh Bait Company, Fort Atkinson, WI 53538, with the name and address of your organization, the date, time and place the film is to be shown.

I.G.F.A. ADDRESS

Many thanks for your article in the January 17 issue of The Long Island Fisherman. We appreciate your helping to get the information on our new programs to the anglers.

You might make a note that our address is **3000** East Las Olas Blvd. and not **300** as was stated in the article. Several years ago, the government made this error in one of their listings and we have had no end of problems with the Post Office in trying to get this 300 up to 3000 again.

CHUM LINES

SENIOR CITIZEN DISCOUNTS FOR COD?

Last summer most of the party boats charged $22 for a full day and $11 for half a day, with discounts of 10% for senior citizens and children from Mondays to Fridays. This means instead of $22 it would cost $20 and instead of $11 it would cost $10.

I can understand limiting discount offers to only weekdays, but just how much encouragement can a senior citizen have living on a limited fixed income to pay $20; how often can he or she avail themselves of a fishing trip.

The senior citizen and the children represent the two most important groups. The elderly because they have been the supporters of party boats for many years and the children who should be looked after as the coming supporters. No doubt the party boat owners have problems and especially with fishing being poor through no fault of theirs, but if they really want to encourage these two groups to go fishing from party boats more often, then the rates should be much more reasonable—probably half of the regular rates. *John Denaro, Hempstead.*

QUINCY INFO

Whatever happened to the Tide Tables in recent issues of The Fisherman?

Can anyone offer any info as to where there might be a launching ramp in the Quincy, Mass. area?

I read about party boats in the vicinity; it would seem there might be a ramp handy.

I realize it's a little early to think about Quincy, but I like to start dreaming early. Thanks for any help you may have. *P. Michelsohn, Uniondale, N.Y.*

Take heart—the Tide Tables will and have returned. We have taken the liberty in some winter issues, to delete the Tide Tables and use that space for important how-to information. We feel we can omit a Tide Table or two in winter since fishing interest is minimal, without inconveniencing too many of our readers.

Now about Quincy. Are you sure that you want to travel all the way to Massachusetts for flounder? Are you aware that some parts of Long Island have experienced superior runs of big flounder in 1979? The run at Gardiner's Island was outstanding with many fish pushing over three pounds and towards four! Much the same praise can be offered for the western Sound—especially around the Huntington area. Here they had a great run in the spring and in the fall. Again, many fish in the three and four pound range. Incidentally, the Peconic run was darn good too! Why not make TEN trips in Long Island waters with the gass you would use going to Quincy? If you insist on traveling north, you can get good information from the chamber of commerce or by responding to one of the Quincy ads in L.I.F. Good Fishing. Dr. W. A. Muller

BANANA SPLITS OR JIGS BEST FOR BLUES?

I've been puzzled by this question for awhile. When bluefishing, which is better—an A-27 diamond jig or a colored Banana Split or a silver (chrome) Banana Split? Thank you very much. *L. Pupkin, Bklyn, N.Y.*

As with all artificial lures, the "best" is always the one the fish are hitting that particular day. But over the long haul, the plain diamond jig would be the most consistent producer. Personally, if I had to fish with only two artificial lures for the rest of my life, my choices would be a diamond jig and a white bucktail. Both of these have been around for hundreds of years and have withstood the test of time for good reason—the action and shape of these lures is so basic and fundamentally sound that any attempts to "improve" their design have only met with short-term success. The Banana Split has been a great lure for the last few years, but will it still be around five or ten years from now? No one knows, but my bet is that plain diamond jigs will still be a top lure for catching blues 100 years from now. *Scott Simons.*

HOW TO GET THAT FIRST WEAKFISH

I have a problem which you might be able to help me with. I have yet to catch a weakfish. I am only 16 and, of course, do not own a car. I do have a bicycle and do use to catch practically every inshore species of fish. I would like to know if you have any recommendations of places from shore where weakfish may prowl. I am willing to travel as far as Massapequa to try my luck. If you have any information, I would highly appreciate it. *Thomas P. Healy, Bellerose, N.Y.*

Lack of transportation can be a real problem for a young man like yourself. You say that you have caught a variety of inshore species and therefore, you must have some way to get to the water. Although you indicate that you are not adverse to taking your bike to the fishing grounds, is it possible that friends and relatives also give you a ride now and then? If that is true, then your best bet for a tiderunner weakfish will be to buy space on one of the many boats that make daily runs out of nearby South Shore ports for weakfish when the season is running at its peak. Check our ads in the back of the magazine for the

best party boat for you. In the daytime, most weaks must be hunted in deeper water. However, at dusk, dawn, and at night, weaks will come into the surf, the shallow portions of bays and channels, as well as near docks, bridges, and piers. You are sixteen and therefore your nighttime fishing may be very restricted. If you can arange to fish with an older friend or relative, you might try Jones Beach's West End or various parts of the State Channel such as Oak Beach. Use small swimming plugs at night and plastic worms or Tri-Fin Eelworms at dusk and dawn. Good luck and we are confident that 1980 will be the year to get your first weakfish. Dr. W.A. Muller.

INDEX IDEA

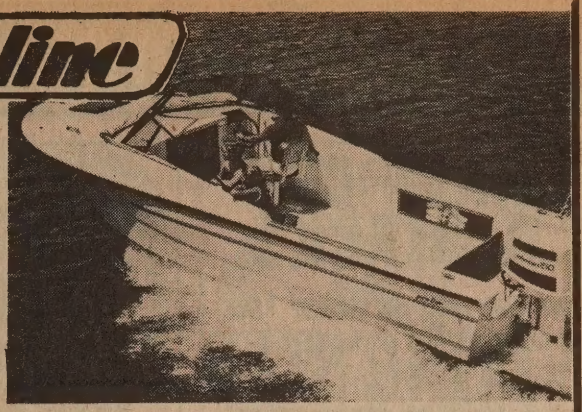
In reply to all the fishermen who have been asking you people for a yearly fishing index so they can look up a certain article without going through four years of issues. I've found that if you take a loose leaf binder and index tabs you can make a beautiful reference book that you can check any time you go fishing, plus you don't have all the old issues taking up room. All that I do is cut out any article I want to keep and paste it in the book and when I need to, I can go back and read it. I have articles dating back to when The Fisherman first came out. Now if I had saved every issue, it would take up too much room and a lot of time to look something up.

All my fishing friends have borrowed my book at one time or another. I hope this information helps the other fishermen with regard to articles written by The Long Island Fisherman. Good fishing. *W. Eckhoff, Wantagh, N.Y.*

P.S.—If there are any fishing clubs out by me and are looking for new members, I would appreciate knowing.

Well Walt, you indeed have found a practical way to save your old L.I.F. info and find articles, too. We regret that we can't publish a yearly index, although as we indicated earlier, we just may be able to publish an index soon. We have also heard of a few other novel ways to keep track of old L.I.F. articles. One reader cuts out the weekly index and then makes up a sheet according to broad categories. For example: flounder, bass, tackle, trolling, etc. Then at the end of the year he makes up a single sheet index by these general topics. He puts the old L.I.F.s in a loose leaf binder and pastes his index sheet on the inside front cover. There are many ways to skin a cat and our ingenious readers seem to find every way. Dr. W. A. Muller.

pro-line



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FISHING REPORTS

MONTAUK

Capt. Paul Forsberg sailing the **Viking Starship** out of Key West, Florida and working the Dry Tortugas on his two weekly trips, has been having very good catches with a perponderance of yellowtail and black grouper. Other large ground feeders are mixed in but these have been the main stay of the catches this past week.

CAPTREE

Captain Gordon Roman of the **Captree Queen II** tells us that though it was generally a slow pick on cod over the weekend, the light crowds that came down did bang away at practically all big fish. On Saturday, 10 fares totaled 8 cod. Sunday, 12 men had 15 cod. With the exception of one fish, all ran over the 25 lb. mark. A lot of fish were also dropped, as the fish are biting very lightly and most are lip-hooked. Setliners are catching very well, which is proof positive that there are a lot of fish around. Hook and line catches are being made on clam bait on open bottom.

The **Viking Star** Monday through Saturday has been noting an increase in the codfish catches work-

Marty Cortez, 14, holds a 30 lb. striped bass he caught aboard Captain Ronnie Lepper's charter boat "Kim" on a Baby Bunker Spoon.

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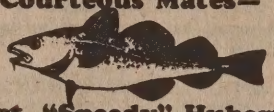

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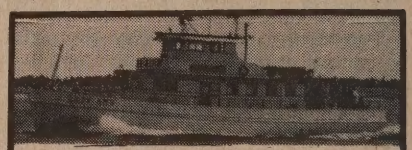

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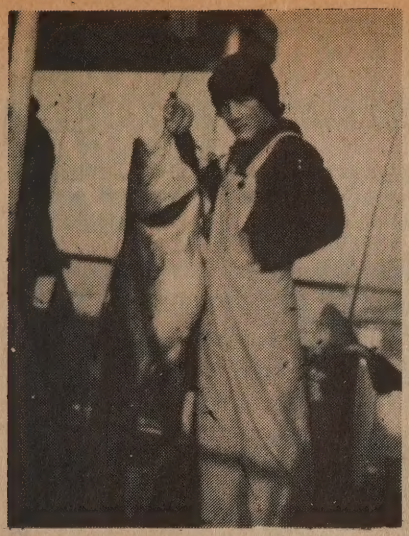

Tony Ricci, age 14, with a 46 lb. cod taken aboard the "Starstream II" out of Freeport last December 12.

ing the Block Island grounds. Fish have been running from 8-14 lbs., with catches averaging 6-10 fish per man. We were told, however, that on Sunday codfish catches took a nosedive due to the fact that there were three gillnet boats from Rhode Island working the same area. The cod were apparently either spooked by or caught up in the gillnets.

Capt. Speedy Hubert of the **Speedy VI** reports that Saturday the boat had 12 cod and Sunday's catch was 13 cod up to 35 lbs. Fish averaged 18 to 25 lbs. and Speedy says that his boat was high hook for the fleet both these days. Fish are definitely around in decent numbers as the setliners are catching very well. The fishing is all on bait on open bottom and water temp being a crucial factor, the hook and line catch was apparently down due to temps being a little too low. Speedy looks for an improved picture with slightly moderating sea temps.

FREEPORT

The **Capt. Al** reports that on Wedsday's trip, Hempstead angler Kenny Hedges bagged a 50 lb. cod fishing at the Three Sisters. There were 9 other cod taken on the boat that day. Sunday's catch was 9 cod and 12 dropped due to popped lines with big fish on the ends. A 34 pounder was taken by Terry Nelson of Huntington Station. Jim Long had a 30 lb. cod. Jim is also from Huntington Station. North Bellmore sharpy Joe Doyle bounced a 31 pounder on the deck. Other fish taken that day ranged from 10 to 20 lbs. Fishing was done south southeast of Jones fishing around the area of the wrecks. This was all bait on open bottom.

Capt. Sy Karlin of the **Bluefin Fleet** says that construction of his new boat, which will be the sister

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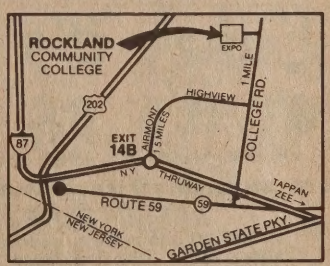

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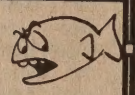

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SURF EXERCISES

(Continued from page 33.)

hope of staying fit—especially during the off season. Last winter, a fellow club member, Bob Teso, gave a presentation on the importance of exercises to get ready for the beach season. He presented his views in such a clear and well organized fashion that I realized for the first time that we should cover this topic in our Surf Fishing column. I tried to contact Bob, who was out of state on business to ask if he would write the column, and if not, to secure his blessings for my assigning the topic to one of our regular writers. I have not been able to locate him, but we decided to go ahead with the topic. Bob, if you read this, thanks for the idea and let us know where you are!

ONLY ONCE

(Continued from page 47.)

the standards of spoiled customers that we are, was not too spectacular. Being tired and aching (oh, that left elbow!), we were on the verge of becoming nearly as famously cranky as the Captain usually is, and certainly in no mood for new challenges.

Therefore, we grudgingly agreed to get a little nearer and "just to have a look" at what was "going on" close to the Point. There, as shiny, silvery multitudes of baitfish were incessantly breaking the surface, it looked like giant, exploding, spangled, orbiting sequins, erupting from below in desperate attempts to escape into the air from marauding monsters beneath. We reluctantly agreed to approach slowly for a few nonchalant casts, "just to see" who was attacking. We were, 'of course,' not going to start the day all over again.

A few casts brought some bluefish, weakfish and some albacore. The latter turned out to be expert in getting away by breaking the line and taking the rig with them.

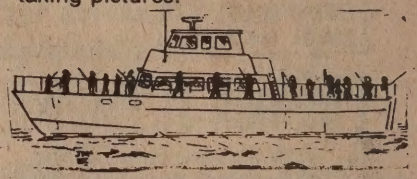
Suddenly, we realized that a mammoth school of striped anchovies encircled our boat for protection. The attackers—weakfish, bluefish and albacore—were brazenly in hot pursuit. They came after their quarry to within inches of the boat and stopped there for a second or so staring us straight in the eye. I could swear they were laughing at us.

We did the best we could. We had a hit on every cast, as soon as the lure touched surface. But, it takes time to reel in, to get the only working gaff from the others who also need it at the very same time, to get the fish off the hook, and all the while not to fall on the slippery deck, where myriads of baitfish sought refuge only to be trampled underfoot like mashed grapes. There were at least six rods lying on the deck with broken lines from smashing albacore.

We were saved from a bad case of "fisherman's frenzy" (which is worse than the frenzy of feeding sharks) only by the Captain's prudent and timely guidance; delivered in his customary mild, low-keyed manner: "don't play around all day, get the gaff!" or "grab the leader and pull him in!" and, when the fish was thereby lost: "how many times did I tell you not to grab the leader! Don't you know why them call them weakfish?!" And, always the uplifting reassurance: "you still don't know how to take a fish off the hook; the other fish in the water will not wait for you all day!"

As all good things come to an end, so did this idyllic interlude of a mild afternoon. Maybe magnanimous humanity prevailed over the killer instinct to "murder them" or, maybe we stopped because the fish boxes overflowed, appetites were satiated and our arms were aching. My own suspicion is that we stopped because the sun simply would not "stand still" for us as it did for ancient Joshua in Gideon. As twilight approached rapidly, it was a reminder that our nervous wives might send the Coast Guard after us and the weary Captain needed his forty winks for the next day's fishing. Thus, we retreated from the field reluctantly, but with Honor. It was the blitz of a lifetime, probably for all of us, including the prickly old salt Captain DeMaio of the good ship "Vivienne."

P.S.—There was only one thing wrong with this adventure: in our delirium, no one thought about taking pictures.



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Contests will start on Fridays and end on the following Thursdays in the weeks of Feb. 1-7, 8-14 and 15-21. The fourth week of competition will be Friday to Friday, February 22-29, with leap year accounting for the extra day of fishing. Gift certificates will be awarded each week to the three anglers who catch the largest pair of any trout species by weight. In the event of ties, the combined length of the pair will be the deciding factor.

A weekend for two at Eldred's modern motel will be the tournament's grand prize.

Staff members at Eldred will bore holes in the ice for fishermen, and fishing gear and tip-ups are available at Eldred's Tackle Shop. A snack bar is open daily from 8AM to dusk, and Eldred's well known restaurant is open Friday, Saturday and Sunday during February. The motel will be open daily.

No fishing license is needed for pond fishing.

Last year's grand prize winner was Andy Penska of Tenafly, N.J., with two rainbows weighing 6 lbs. 8 oz. Other weekly winners in the 1979 tournament were Billy Smolka of Staten Island, N.Y., Paul Caple of Wingdale, N.Y., and Harold Williams of Jackson Heights, N.Y.

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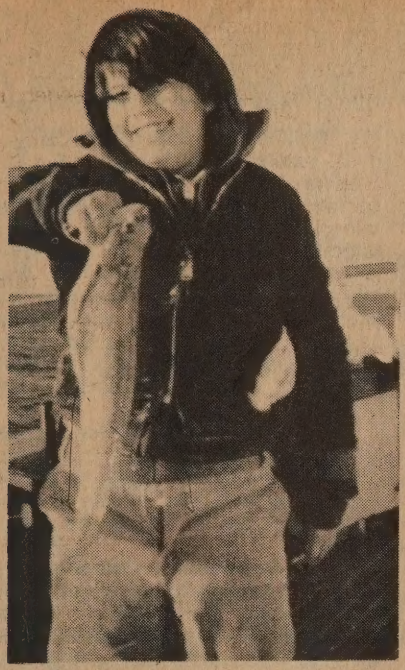

Jordan Gould holds the 3 lb. ling he caught on December 30 while fishing aboard the new "Elsie K III" out of Sheephead Bay.

ship of the **Bluefin II** is right on schedule and should be at the dock in mid-March. He says he's gotton lots of entries for his contest, but wants to see a lot more. See ad on Freeport page for details.

Capt. Richie Kessinger of the **Starstream II** and Capt. Chris Specht of the same boat, tells us that on Tuesday, Mac MC Duffy of Brooklyn hooked and landed a 56 lb. cod, a real bruiser in any league. Friday saw Romano Bintuletti nail a 30 lb. cod. Twenty three other cod were taken by 10 fares Friday also. On Wednesday's trip Paul Wetterau of Franklin Sq. bagged a 35 pounder, while Mike Fayer of Great Neck boated a 30 lb. cod. Pool fish for the weekend tipped the scales at 38 lbs. There was a big heave on all during the last part of the week and once that settles down the numbers of fish caught should increase, though fish have been caught this past week everyday.

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IN MEMORIAM

To our great shock, the L.I.F. was notified that open boat skipper "Huck" Huckemeyer, of Sheepshead Bay's HELEN H, suddenly and unexpectedly passed away after suffering a heart attack at his home in Brooklyn, on Tuesday, February 5 at 11AM. Huck's son, Ray, told us that his father had no history of heart trouble prior to this first fatal attack. Huck was 54, still a young man. One of the pillars of the region's fleet, he captained six boats in the twenty years he sailed from the bay: The Barbara, Mako, Mako II, Helen H, Helen H II and, finally his pride and joy, the aluminum supercruiser, Helen H. For twenty-four years, Huck and Captain George Thomas had been partners on these vessels. Prior to the bay, Huck had sailed out of Geretsen Creek.

Captain "Huck" Huckemeyer at the wheel. Photo courtesy of Bruce Sucher.

Services were held last Wednesday and Thursday at the John J. Healey Funeral Home, Brooklyn. Burial was on Friday, at St. John's Cemetery, Queens.

Huck is survived by his wife Joan, sons Raymond and Joseph, daughters Theresa and Joanne and by his brother Robert.

Huck was popular and well liked by his fellow captains and others in the industry, and was a devoted family man.

The L.I.F. staff extends sincere condolences to the family. Huck will be sorely missed, but he will not be forgotten.

NEW BOOKS

DUNAWAY REVISED

A newly revised and expanded edition of Vic Dunaway's **Complete Book of Baits, Rigs and Tackle** makes this popular work more than ever the best reference available for all kinds of fishing how-to.

At 224-pages, the new edition is twenty-five percent larger than the previous one, which sold more than 100,000 copies. In addition, it contains 100 more illustrations. The book has been completely updated to include all the latest in baits and rigs for freshwater and saltwater fishing, plus lures, line, hooks, rods, reels, specialized equipment and accessories.

It is the only book which offers comprehensive basic data on **all** types of fishing, from cane pole through spinning, baitcasting, and fly, to inshore and offshore saltwater angling. It illustrates baits, lures and rigs for everything from bass and panfishing to big-game trolling.

The publisher offers a money-back guarantee to anyone who doesn't agree that **Complete Book of Baits, Rigs and Tackle** contains more practical information on more kinds of fishing how-to than any other book available—regardless of price.

The book is on sale at tackle counters, or it may be ordered for $4.95 from Wickstrom Publshers, 2701 S. Bayshore Dr., Miami, FL 33133. Mail orders are sent postpaid.

1980 EVINRUDE SERVICE MANUALS AVAILABLE

Evinrude Motors has introduced a service manual for the service-minded boater. The manual contains specific information on trouble-shooting and maintenance that helped build its reputation over the years, but new safety sections and print format have been added for the serviceman—whether he's a do-it-yourselfer or full-time service mechanic for a dealer.

The 1980 Evinrude service manual can best be described as a service/safety/maintenance reference book, done on a level that makes it more understandable to the service repair person.

One of the newer additions oriented is the section on safety, **Marine Products and the Safety of People Who Use Them** and **Marine Products and the Safety of People Who Fix Them.** The safety sections cover the elementary systems in outboard boating: steering, electrical, shifting, fuel, etc. For example, the safety se section on outboard steering graphically explains that the system begins at the steering wheel and ends at the trim tab on the outboard. It tells the reader that a safe steering system should NOT come apart, jam or be sloppy, and what the results could be if the steering did fail. Specifically, the safety sections spell out the importance of boating safety and what can be done to prevent accidents.

Evinrude company officials firmly believe the more knowledge available to people on use and service of their outboards, the more trouble-free and safe boating for everyone. The Evinrude service manuals are available through the Evinrude Motors service department in Milwaukee.

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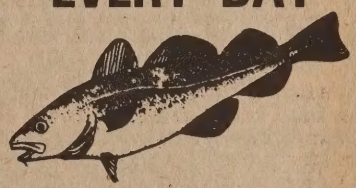

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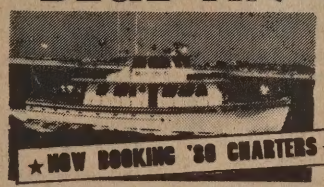

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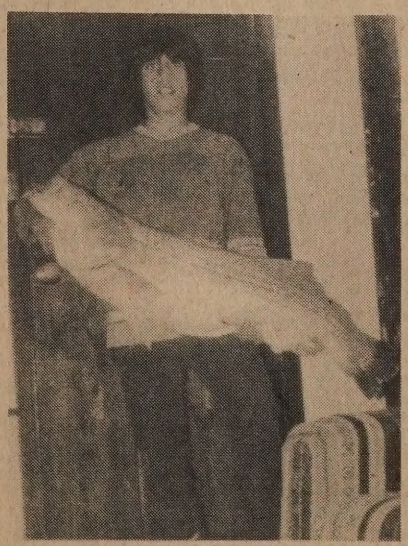

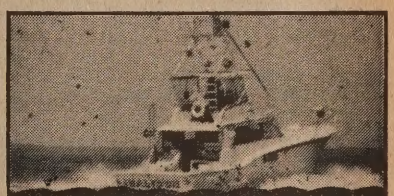

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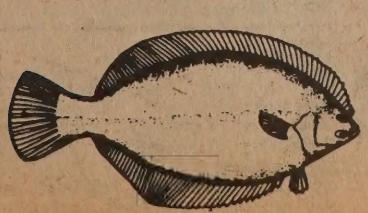
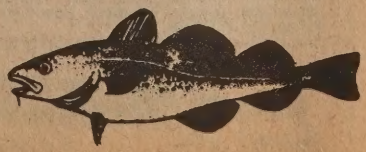


Steve Petri, Jr., 15, caught this 32 lb. bass from the surf at Gilgo Beach on a live eel, last Halloween Night. It was the largest striped bass he ever caught.



FISHERMAN'S CLASSIFIED

To place an ad in *THE FISHERMAN'S* classified section, send in copy for the ad exactly as you wish it to read along with your check or M.O. for the full amount. Rates for non-subscribers are .30-cents per word with a 15 word ($4.50) minimum. Subscribers to *The Fisherman* receive a *Fifty-percent DISCOUNT* if they include the number off their subscription label. Classified rates for subscribers are: 15-cents per word with a 15 word ($2.25) minimum. *Discounts for extended runs:* 12 times, 5%; 35 times, 10%; and 50 times,15%. To run a photo with ad, non-subscribers add $10, subscribers $5.

BOATS & MOTORS

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24' 1974 SEA RAY 188 h.p. Merc. I/O, Cuddy; head. Complete canvas; VHF radio; Coast Guard equipment. $6950. EDDIE'S MARINE, 212-327-3088.

New 1980 LUND Aluminum boat and new 1980 SPIRIT Outboards. Dockage available to 26'. Five minutes from Shinnecock Inlet. SUNSHINE MARINE, 23 Rampasture Road, Hampton Bays, N.Y. 11946. 516-728-1339.

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2-$245; 4-$350; 6-$480; 9.9-$630; 15-$714; 25-$860; 35-$960; 50-$1200; 55-$1385; 70-$1578; 85-$1760; 100-$1830; 115-$1890;140-$1988; 150-$2516; 175-$2596; 200-$2696; 235-$2860. ELECTRA MARINE, 610 Merrick Rd., Lynbrook, N.Y. 11563. Scott & McCulloch parts. FOB/H. 516-599-3003. We ship anywhere.

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36' SPORTFISHERMAN. Very economical Diesel (3 gal. per hr.). Full canvas, fighting chair, SI-Tex white line, CB and VHF. Good charter or family boat. Survey and many other extras. $14,000. 516-472-0073.

22' CHRIS CRAFT Cutlass Cuddy, wood classic; 235 h.p. repowered 1973; very low hours. Boat yard maintained since new. Excellent rough water boat. A-1 condition. $2800. 516-587-8266.

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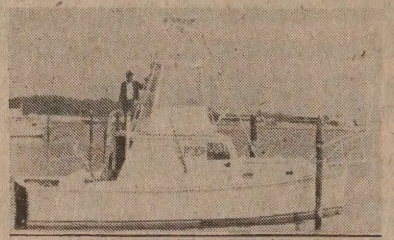
22' SISU Outboard 115 h.p. 25" shaft Mercury; 2, 28-gal. tanks. Custom built teak combing Navy top. Side curtains; VHF depth recorder. Cox galvanized trailer. Excellent condition. $8000 FIRM. 516-437-1036.



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SEACRAFT '74 23' Center Console, Twin Evinrudes '76, 135 h.p. Power trim. Hardly used. Best offer over $7500. 516-666-0507. MUST SELL.

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22' CHRIS CRAFT Tournament Fisherman, 1974, 307 old engine, inboard; trim tabs; winter cover; CB antenna; freshwater flushing attachment for engine. Immaculate. $8600. 516-744-5724.

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Remember, if it has anything to do with compasses at all, give me a call! Huge inventory of Ritchie Compasses. Expert installation & adjustment. Authorized repair service. I also carry a complete line of binoculars, sextants, clocks, barometers. JENS JACOBS NAUTICAL SERVICE, 516-757-7169.

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OBTAIN YOUR U.S. COAST GUARD LICENSE TO CARRY PASSENGERS FOR HIRE. Personalized instructions. Continuous classes. For information, call Capt. Dan Masterson of Lindenhurst, 516-226-5664.

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BUILD YOUR OWN CUSTOM FISHING ROD. Save up to 70%. Complete kits available with easy-to-follow, step-by-step instructions, will provide you with tackle your friends will envy. Free Catalog. Send postage stamp to: "KITS," Box 525. Northport. N.Y. 11768.

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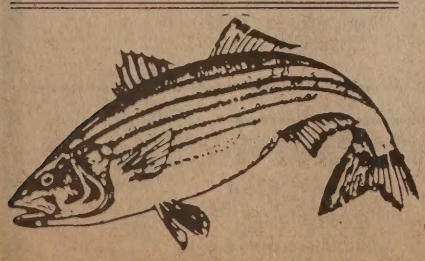
1979 4x4 Scout II, V304, 4 speed, lifetime rustproofing, reg. gas, 20 mpg, 13,000 highway miles. Ideal fishing machine. Many extras. Mint. $7000. 212-237-0249.



Pass It On...

"YEAR OF THE COAST" BUTTON FREE

Contributors of newspapers and magazines to the next monthly recycling drive of the Friends of Long Island will receive a "1980 Year of the Coast Button" in appreciation. 1980 has been declared the Year of the Coast by President Carter in order to make the public more aware of the importance of protecting our coastal regions.

The recycle drives are held at the Pathmark parking lot on Merrick Road in Seaford. Volunteers unload cars from 10AM to 4PM. Other items recycled include aluminum, brass, copper and car batteries.

The next drive will be on Saturday, February 16.

FISHING CLUB HAS COMMENTS ON TRAP

On behalf of the Sound Surf Fishing Club, I would like to thank you and the staff of The Long Island Fisherman for your efforts to have the fish trap at Montauk's North Bar removed. I was pleased to read that their permit application for 1980 was rejected, not so pleased with the reason it was. I felt the application should have been rejected because it interfered with the recreational sport fisherman as your report so documented. By rejecting the application on the grounds it was received late, the Parks Commission, I feel, has only put off making a decision. By taking the easy way out and not giving your report public recognition, I feel we are going to have the same problem again next year. As best summed up, we won the battle, but not the war.

I was also pleased to see Fred Golofaro's Surf Report column added to the paper this past year. Look forward to reading it each week, please keep it coming. **Frank Meyer, Lake Grove, N.Y.**

JOURNAL ADS SOUGHT

The Marine Environmental Council of Long Island (MECLI) is publishing a "1980 Year of the Coast Journal" in keeping with the national effort to publicize the importance of our coastal region. Ads are presently being sought from companies and industries that depend upon a clean marine environment. Interested persons are requested to write to MECLI, P.O. Box 55, Seaford, L.I. 11783 for the necessary form.

Please support this endeavor to bring to the public's attention the need for protecting our vital coastal area.

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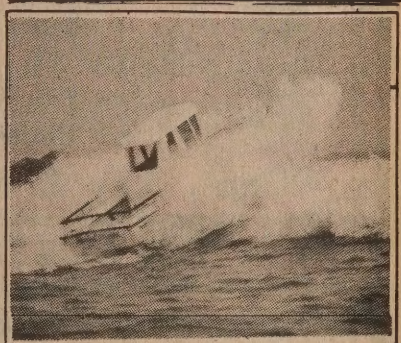

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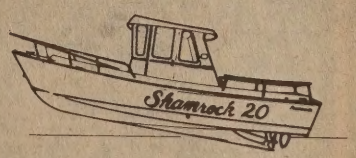

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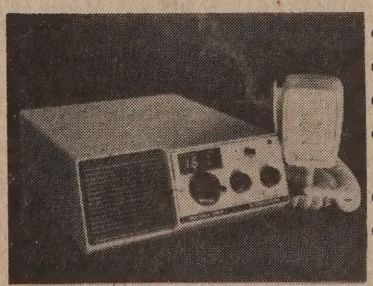

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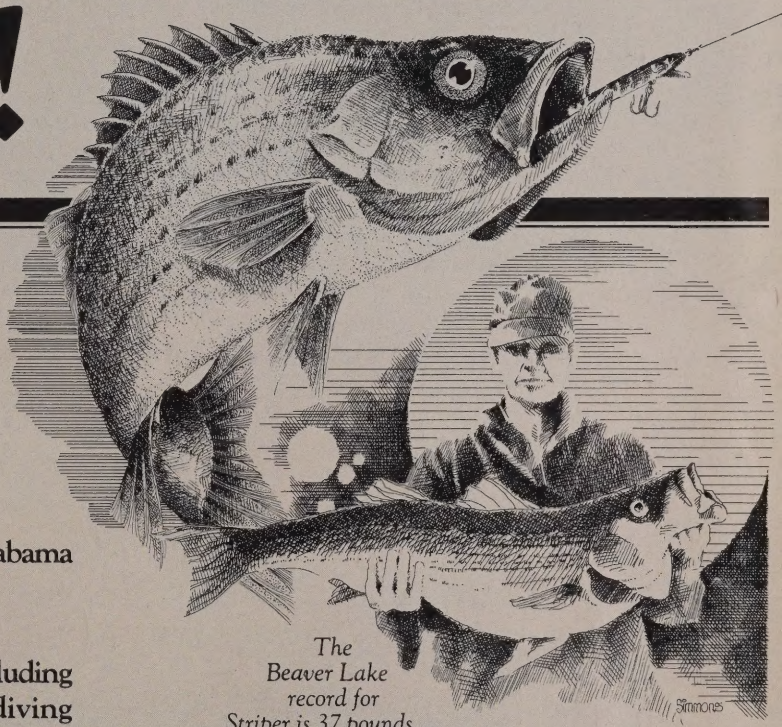

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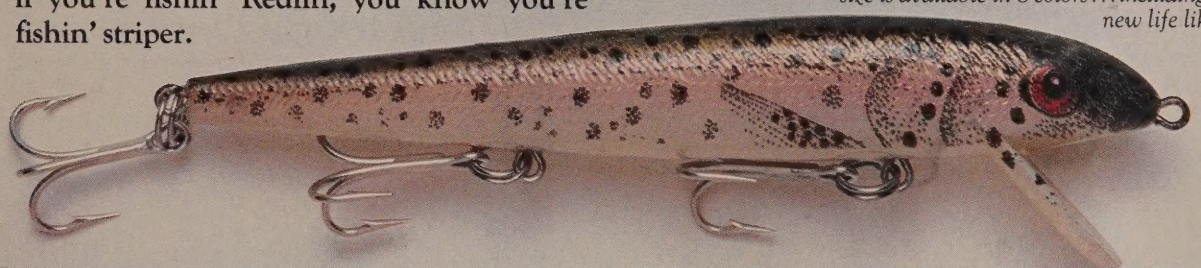

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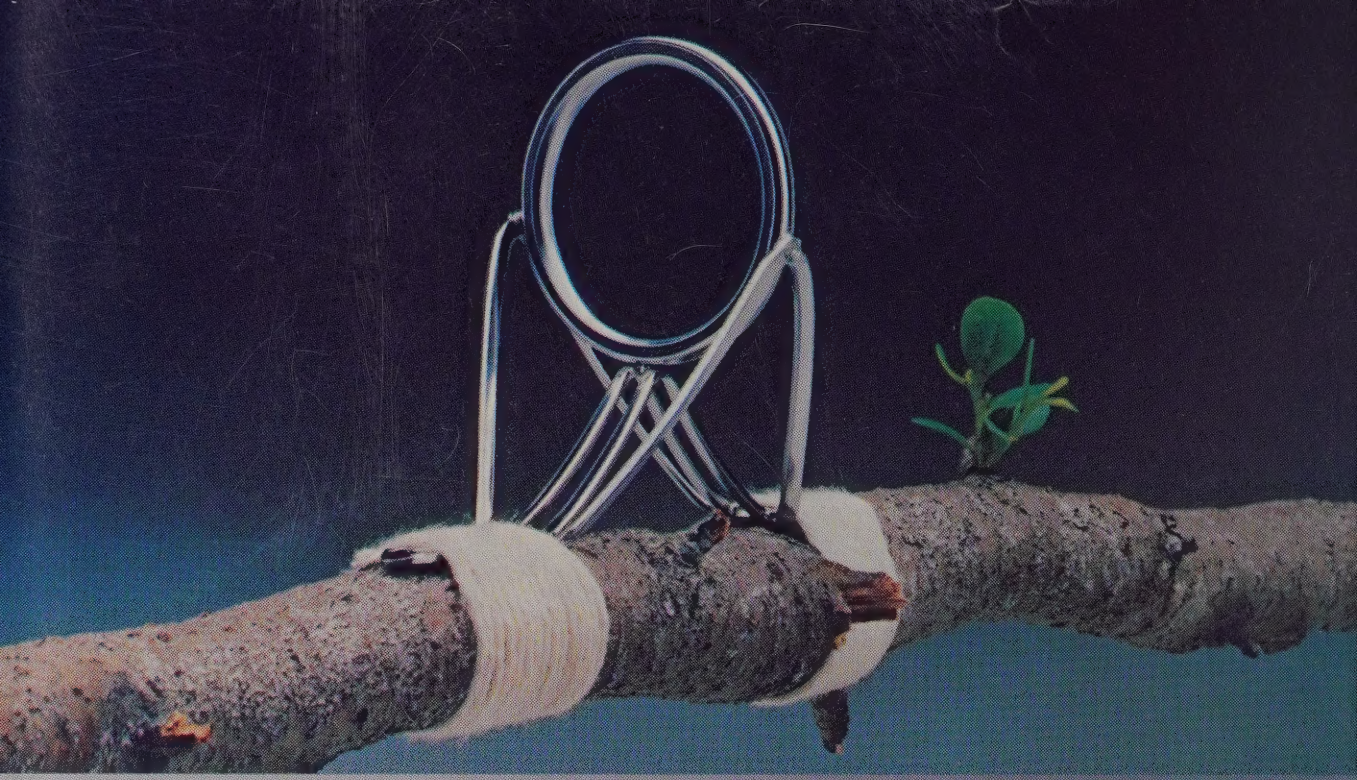

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